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AMAR CHITRA KATHA

No. 367 Rs. 5/-

Mahabharata-20

ARJUNA'S QUEST FOR WEAPONS

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Amar Chitra Katha
No. 367, October 15, 1986

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Published by:
H.G. MIRCHANDANI
for India Book House Pvt. Ltd.
Mahalaxmi Chambers
22, Bhulabhai Desai Road,
Bombay 400 026.
and printed by him
at IBH Printers, Marol Naka,
Mathurda Vissanji Road,
Andheri (East), Bombay 400 059.
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Bombay 400 026.
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The recital took place in the august presence of King Janamejaya—great-grandson of Vyasa—and the many learned sages who had assembled for Janamejaya's Sarpa Satra (a 12-year-long snake sacrifice).

The twentieth session of our rendering of Vaishampayana's recital of Vyasa's epic, the Mahabharata, described how Arjuna helped by his knowledge of the secret art of 'Pratismriti' (a branch of yogic knowledge) and his penance, pleased Indra, Shiva and other gods and acquired celestial weapons from them. The session ended with Indra instructing Arjuna to proceed to Swargaloka to perform some duties for the devas. Indra asked him to await Matali who would take him there in the celestial chariot.

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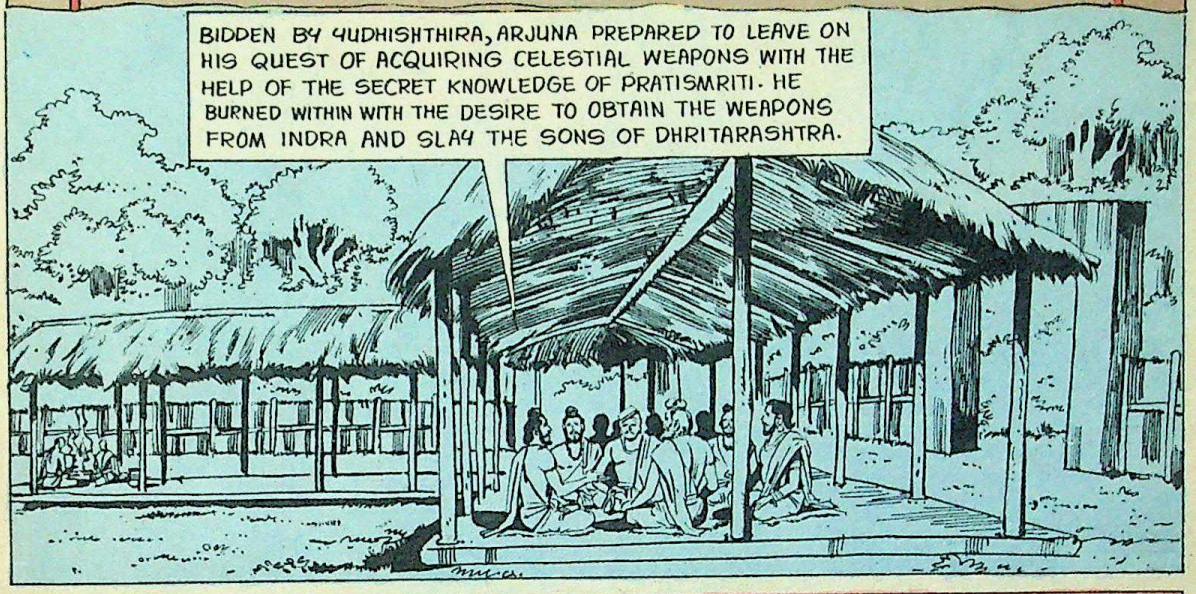
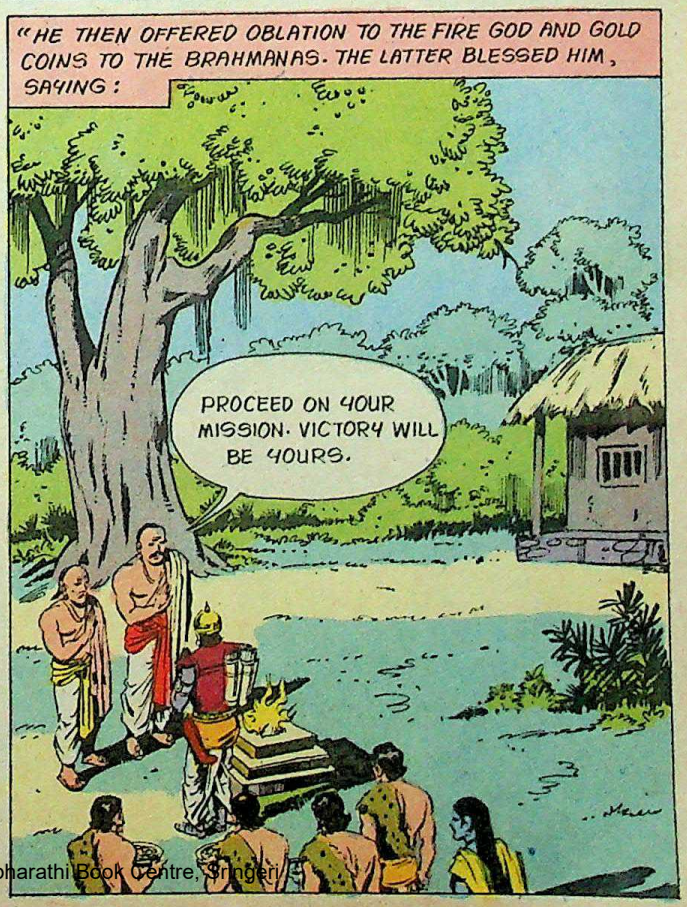
ARJUNA'S QUEST FOR WEAPONS





* NAME OF ARJUNA'S BOW.

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"SEEING ARJUNA IN HIS WAR-LIKE ATTIRE, TAKING LEAVE OF OTHERS, DRAUPADI SAID:

O MIGHTY DHANANJAYA!* MAY THE WISHES OF YOUR MOTHER AND YOUR OWN AMBITIONS BE FULFILLED!

AFTER YOU GO IN QUEST OF THE WEAPONS, YOUR BROTHERS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY REMEMBER YOUR VALOUR AGAIN AND AGAIN. WE WILL FIND SOLACE NEITHER IN INDULGENCE NOR IN WEALTH.

I PRAY TO VASU, RUDRA, ADITYA, THE MARUTS AND ALL OTHER GODS — MAY THEY LOOK AFTER YOUR WELL-BEING.

AFTER DRAUPADI BECAME SILENT, ARJUNA CIRCUMAMBULATED HIS BROTHERS AND DEPARTED ON THE JOURNEY.

* CONQUEROR OF WEALTH (ARJUNA).

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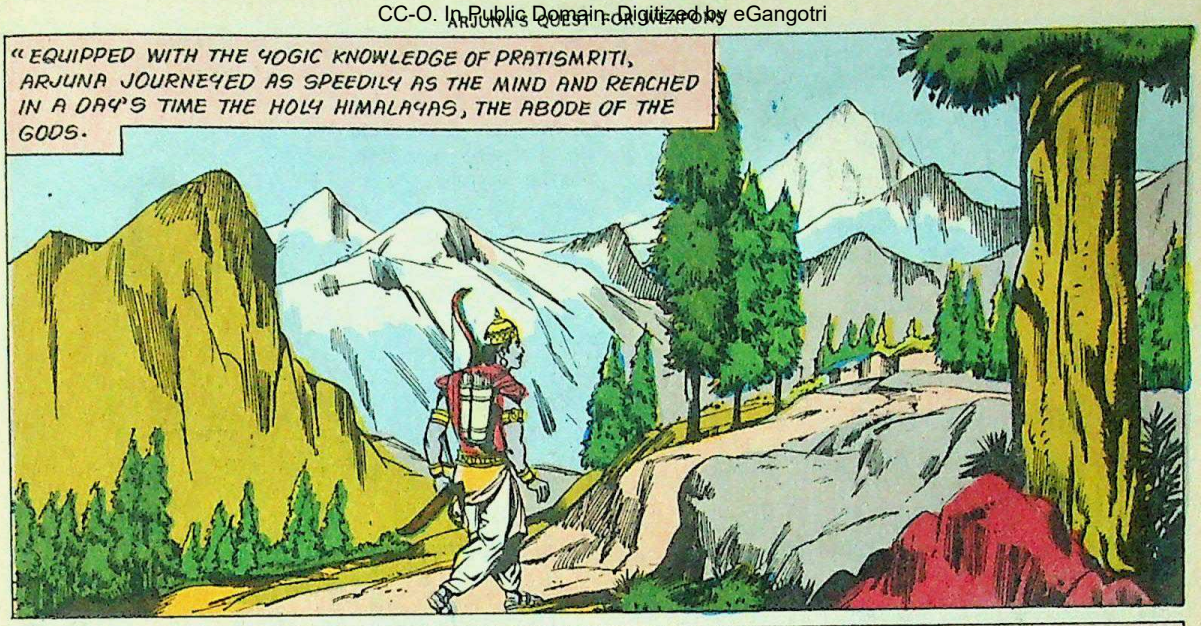

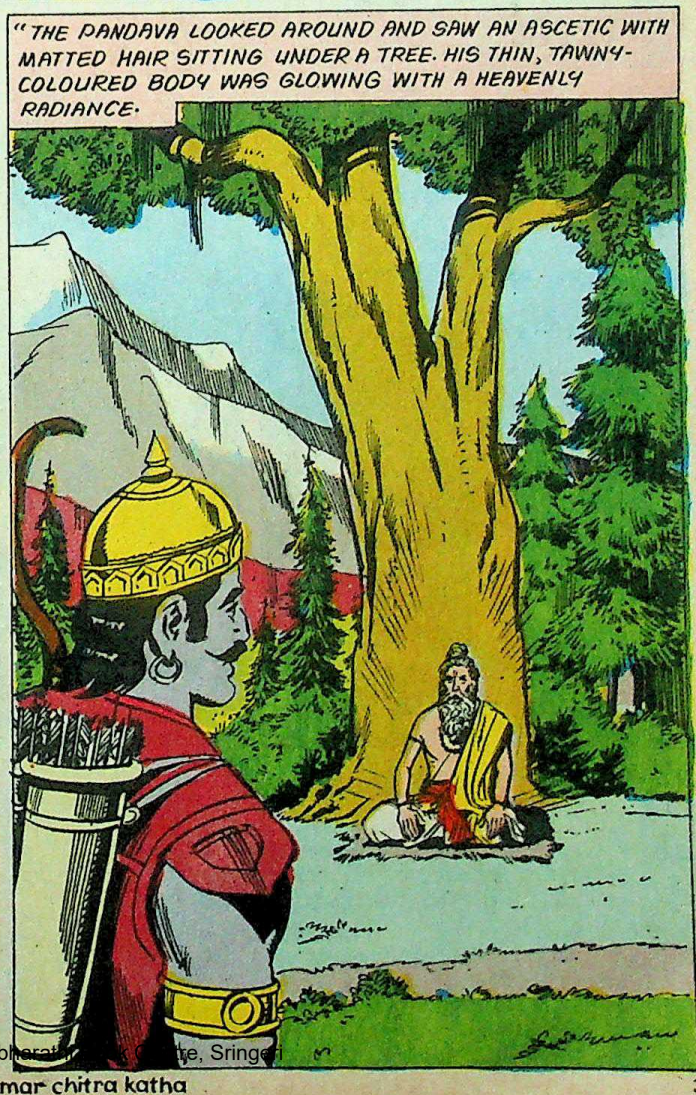

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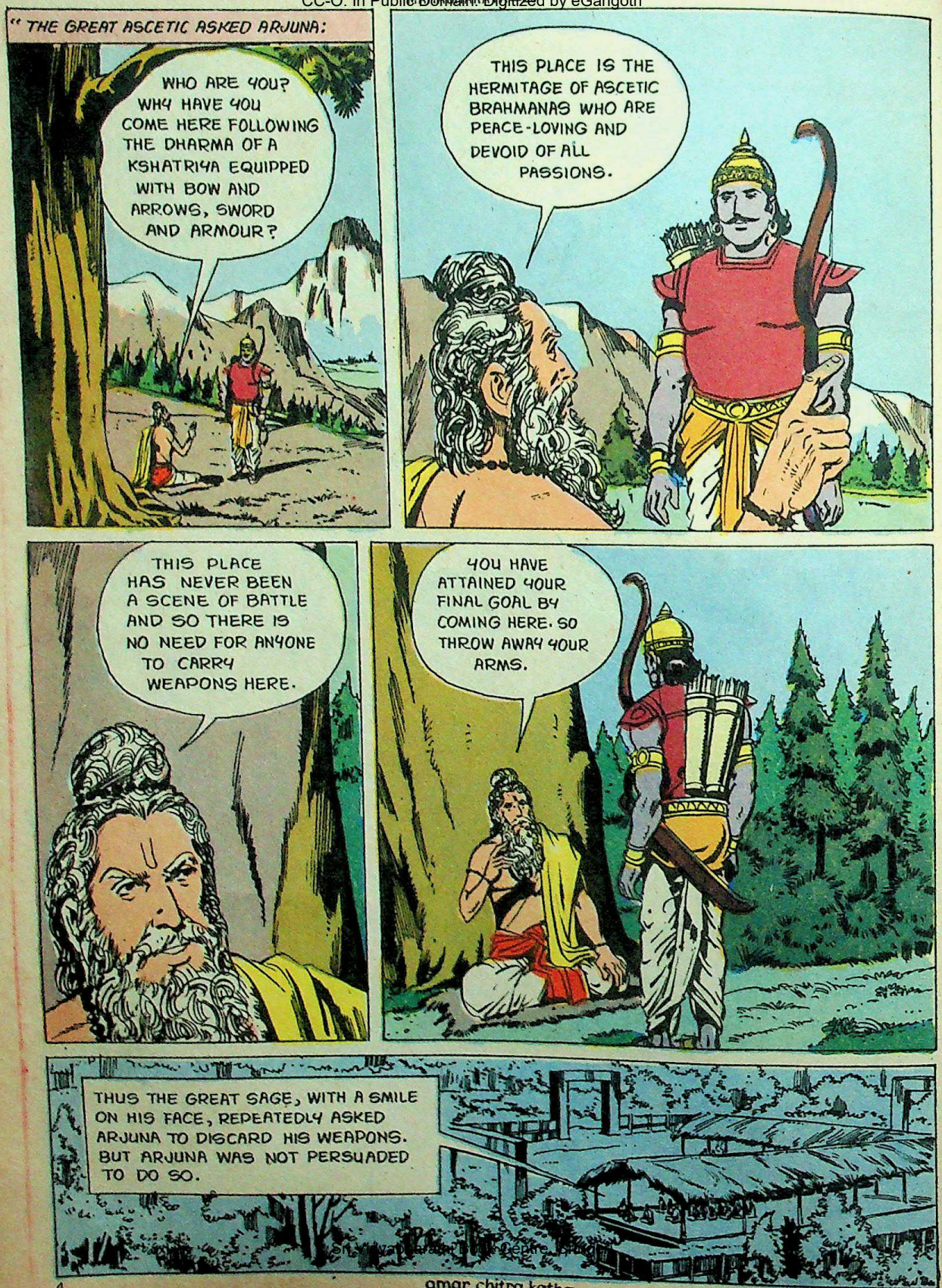

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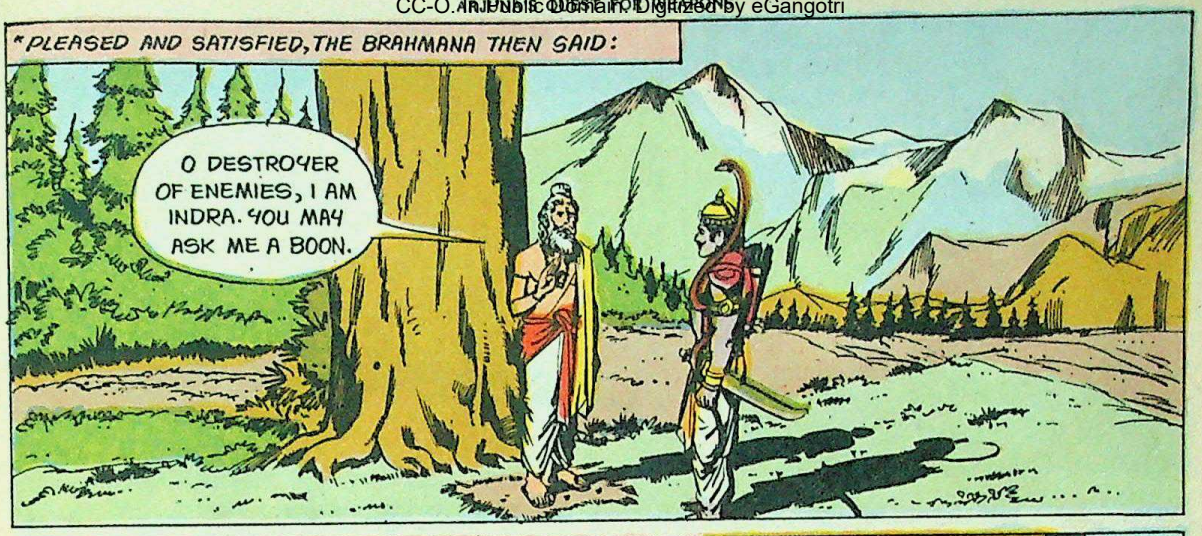

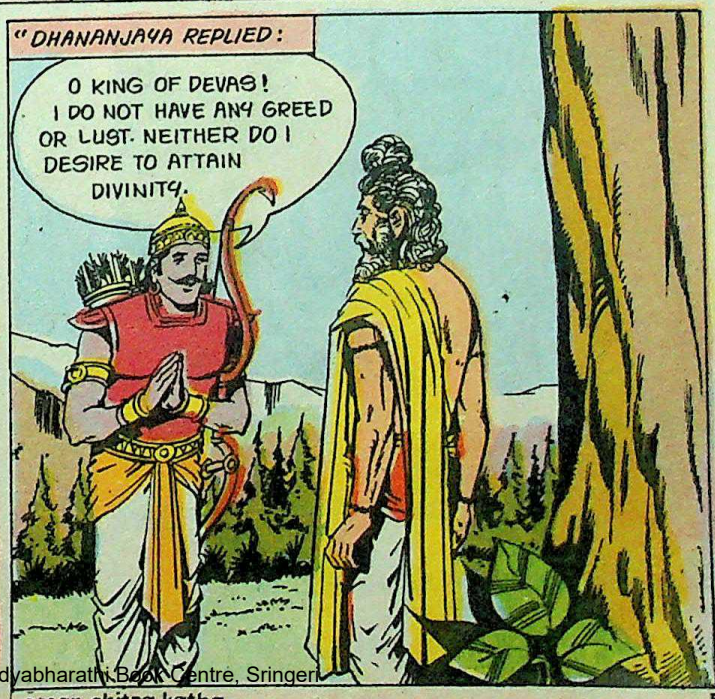

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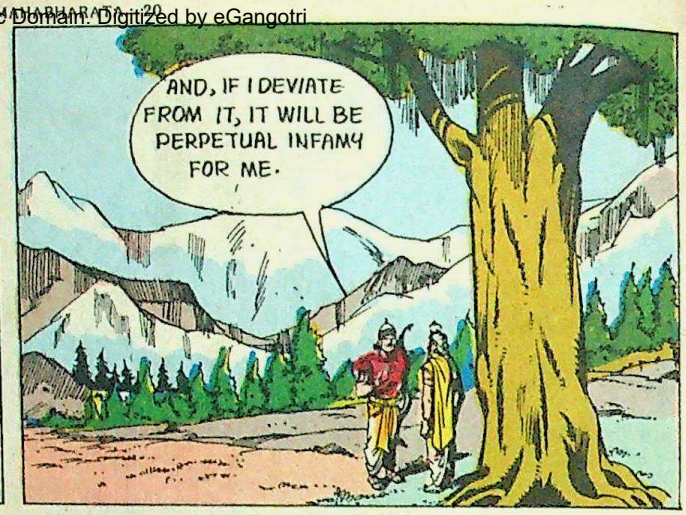

"AS ARJUNA SAID THIS, INDRA, THE DESTROYER OF VRITRA, COMFORTED HIM AND SAID IN A PLEASING VOICE:

MY CHILD! WHEN YOU HAVE PLEASED AND BEHELD SHIVA, THE WIELDER OF THE SHOOLA*, I SHALL GIVE YOU THE CELESTIAL WEAPONS.

O SON OF KUNTI! STRIVE TO BEHOLD SHIVA. AFTER THAT YOU SHALL ARRIVE IN HEAVEN.

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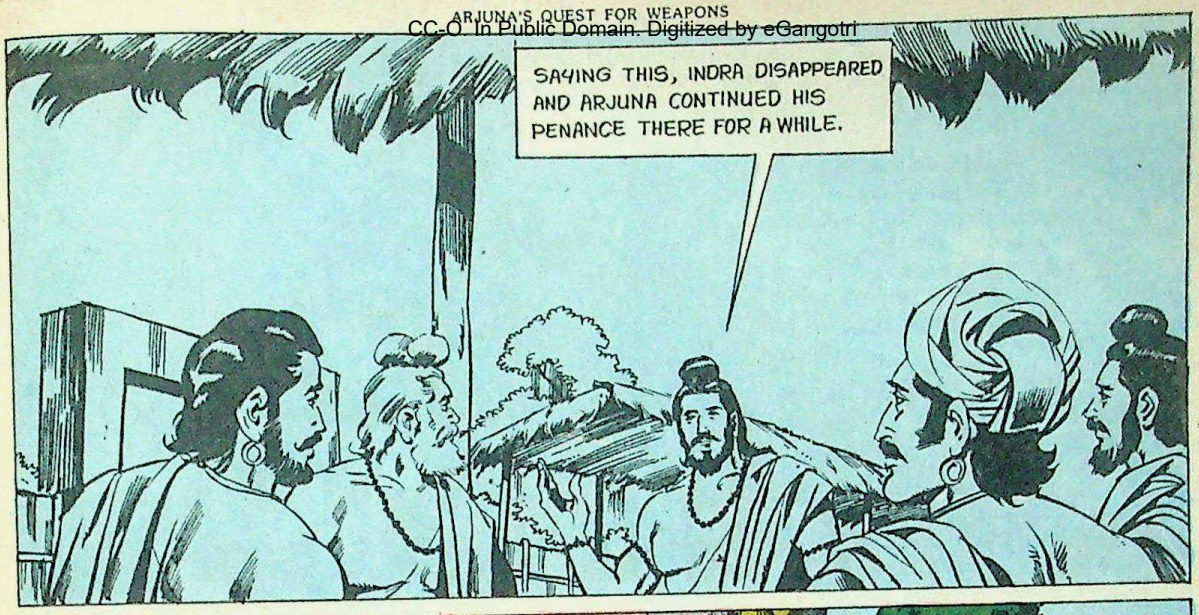

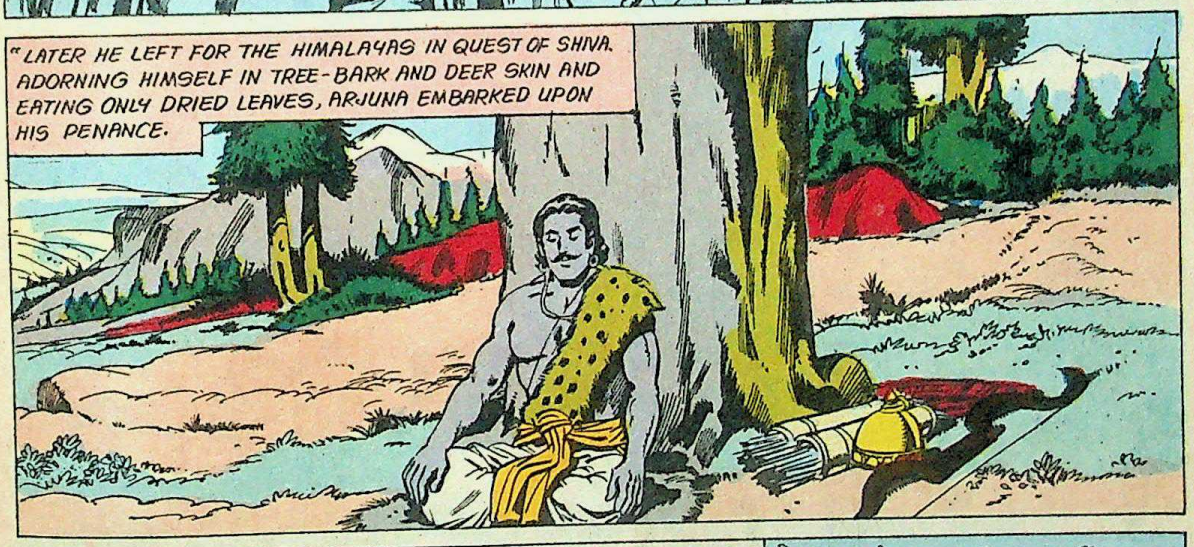

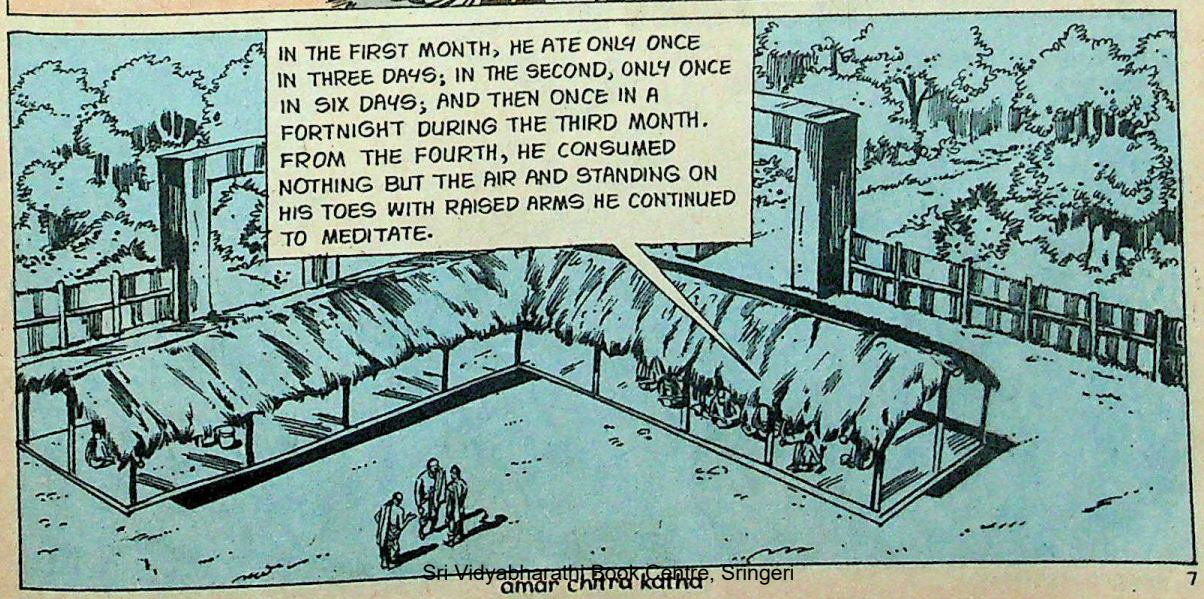

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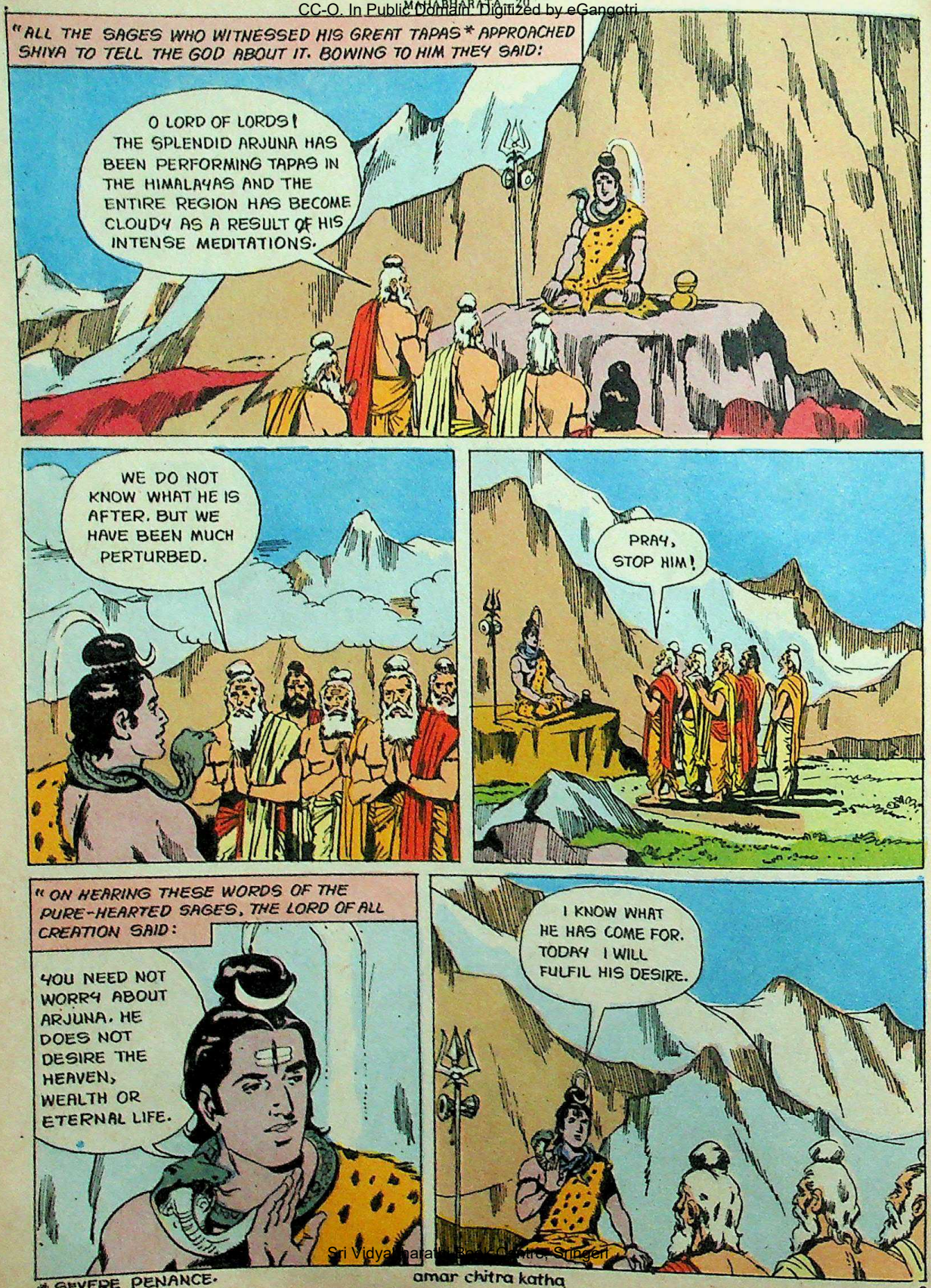

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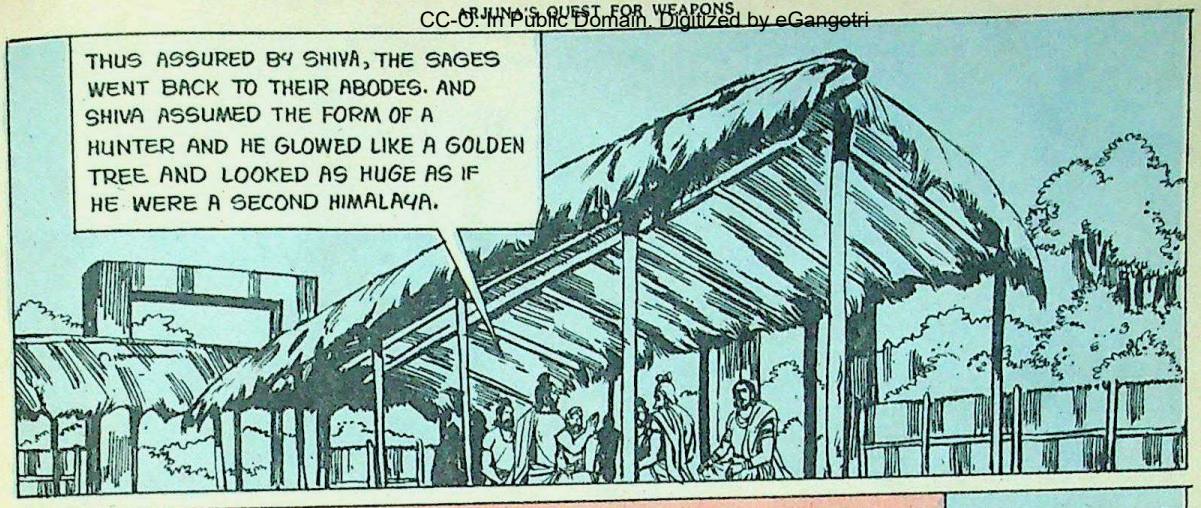

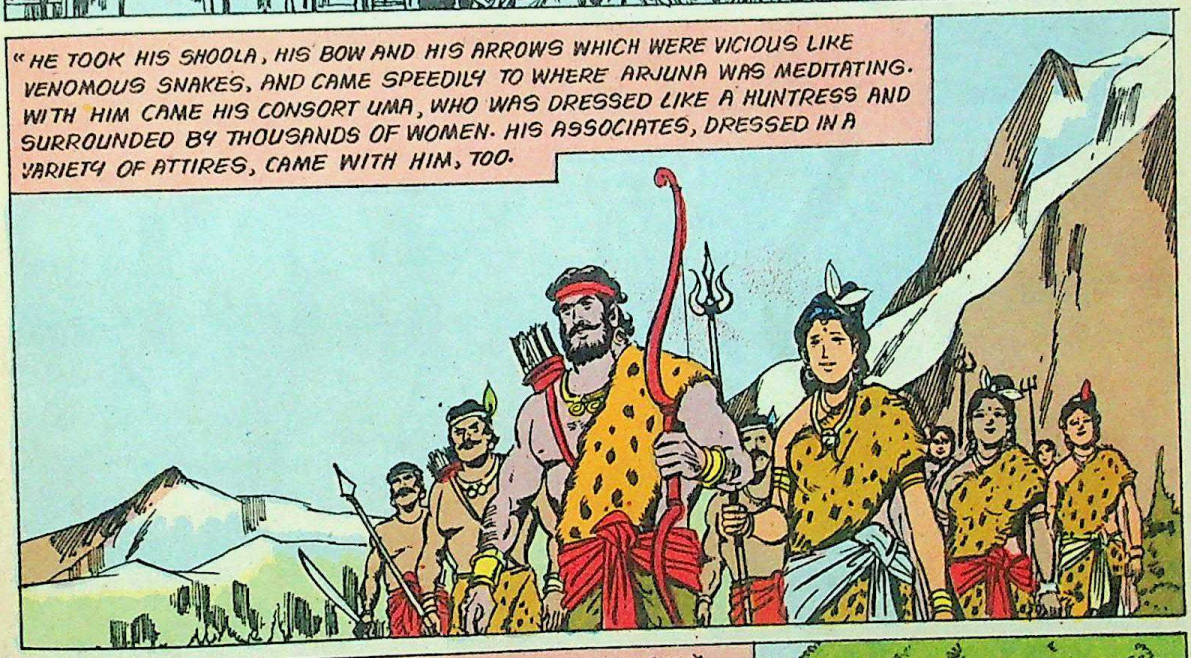

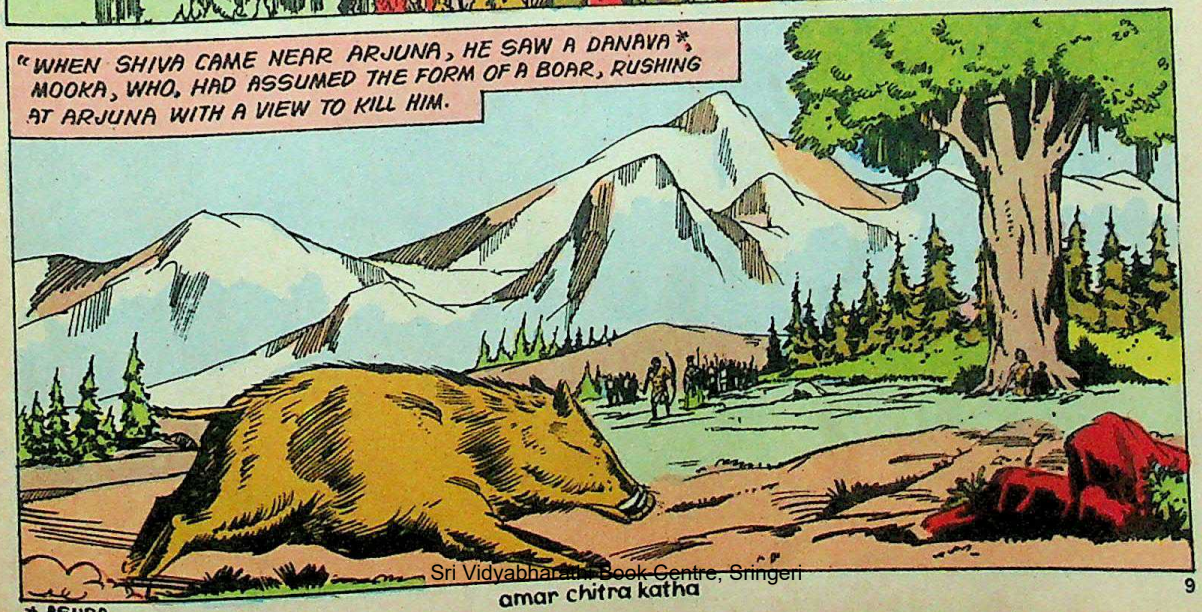

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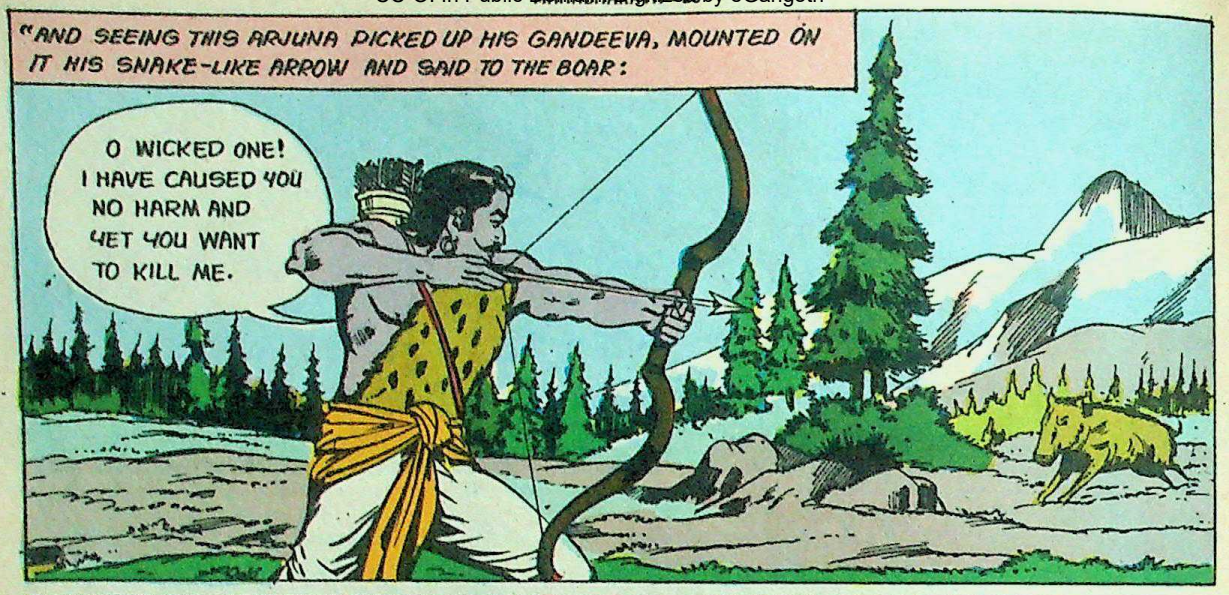

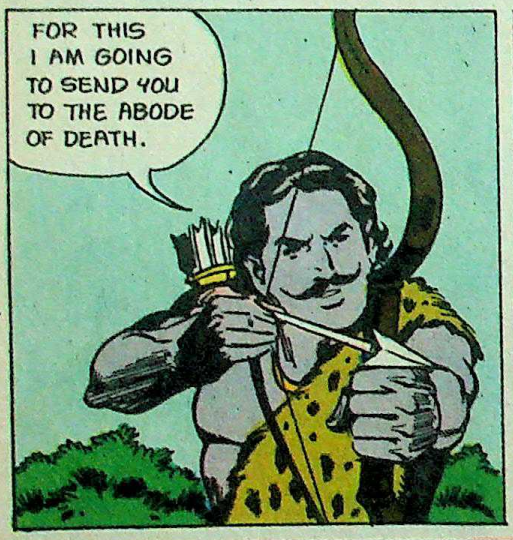

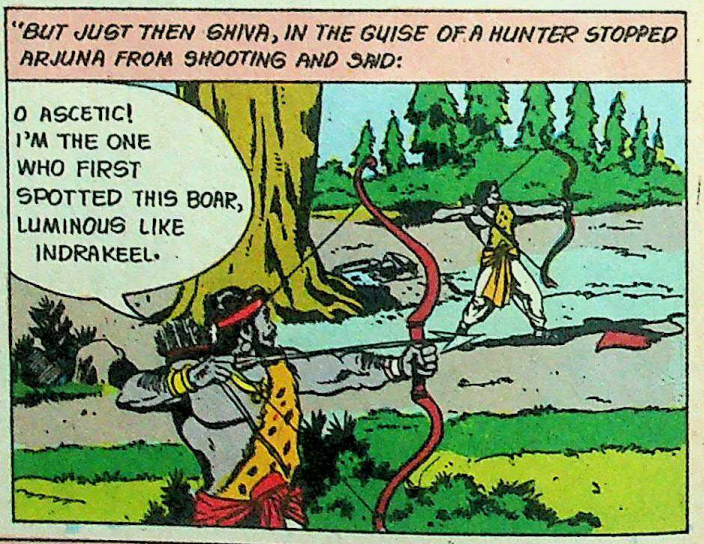

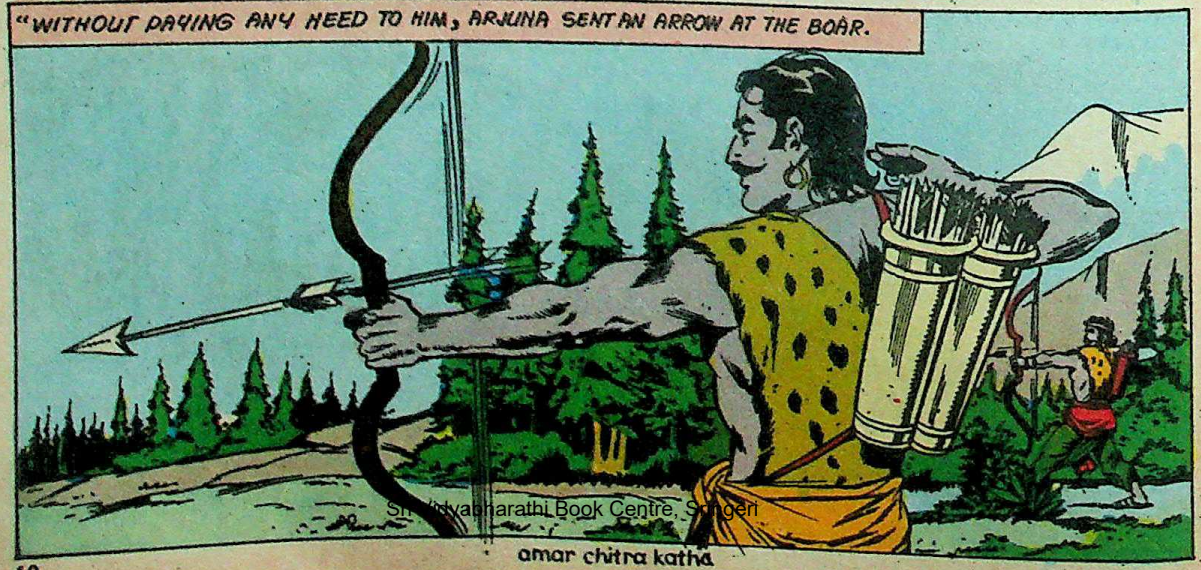

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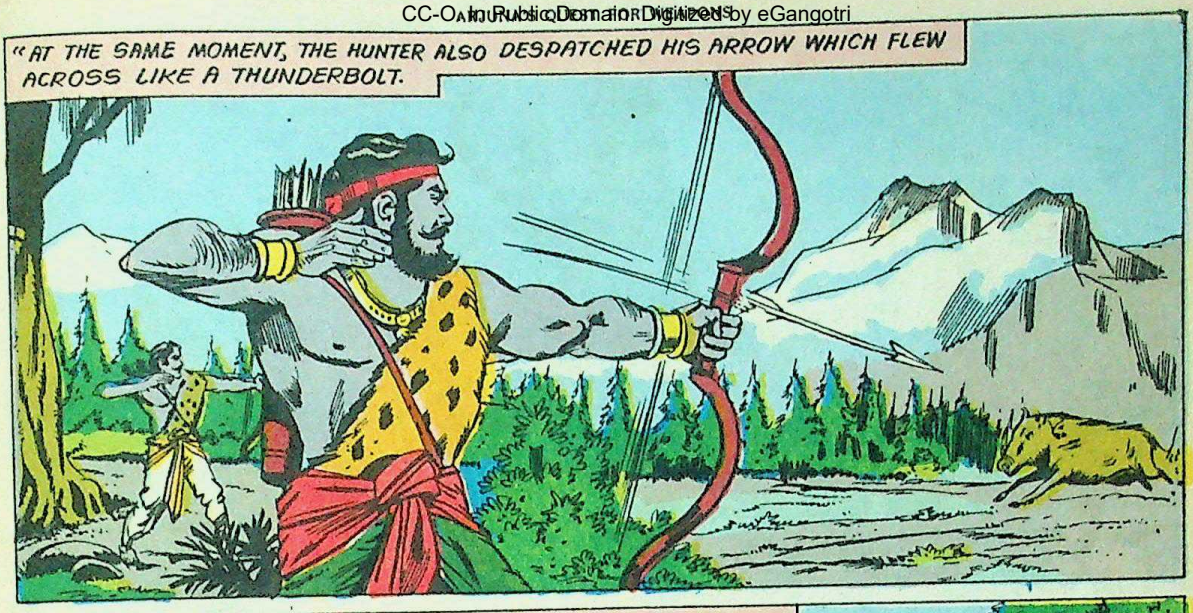

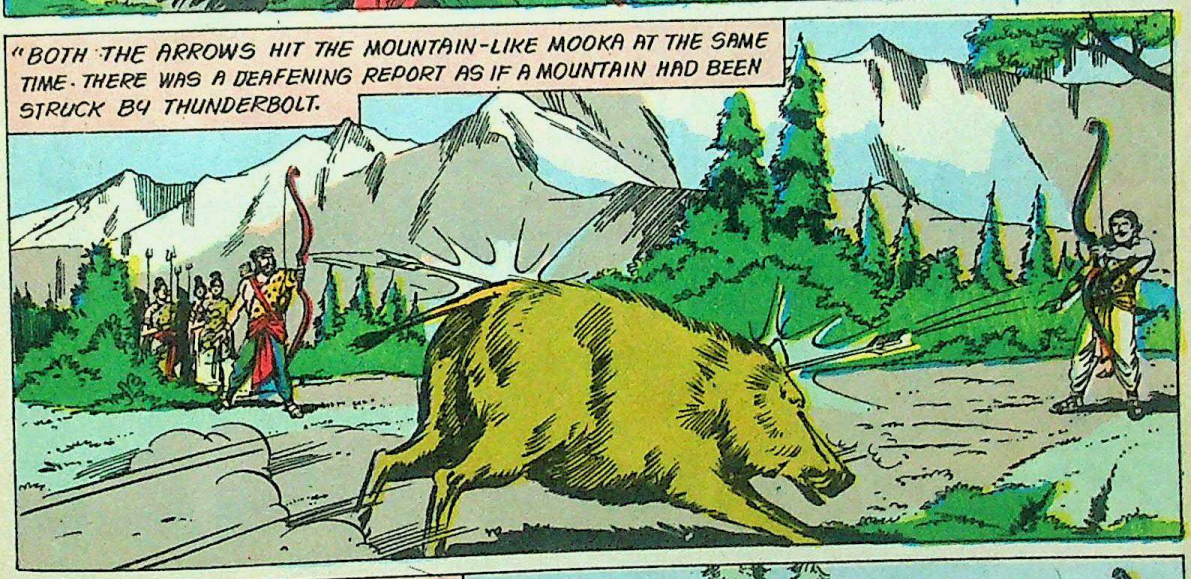

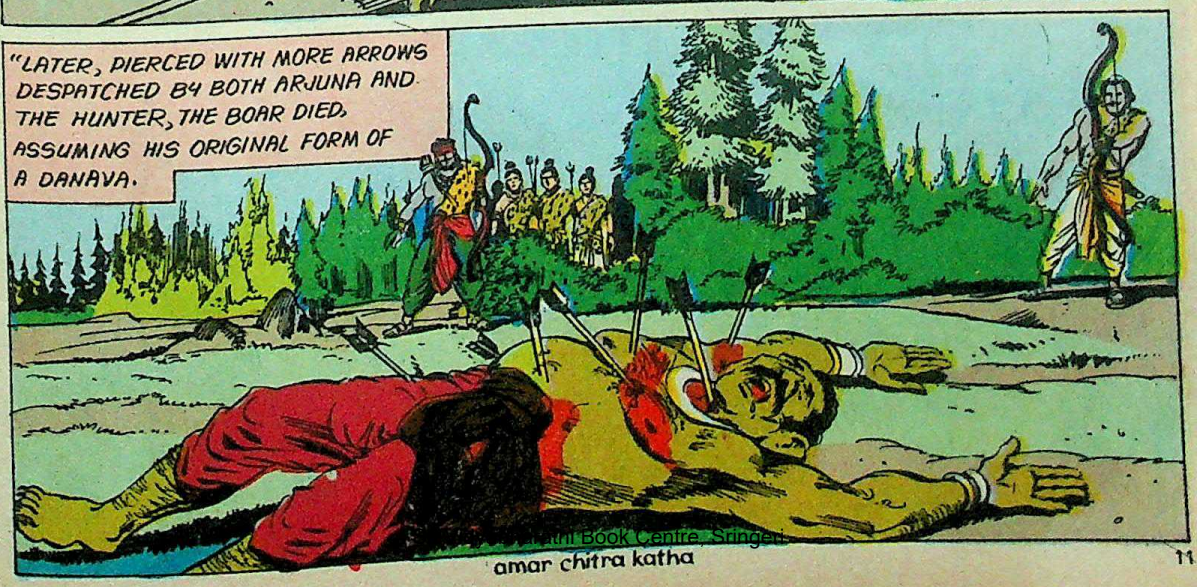

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"THEN ARJUNA, LOOKING AT THE HUNTER, SAID WITH A SMILE:

WHO ARE YOU, ROAMING WITH WOMEN IN THIS DEADLY FOREST? ARE YOU NOT AFRAID?

AND WHY DID YOU SHOOT THE BEAST AFTER I HAD SHOT IT?

YOU HAVE ACTED AGAINST THE ESTABLISHED RULES OF HUNTING AND YOU DESERVE TO DIE AT MY HANDS.

"HEARING THESE WORDS OF ARJUNA, THE HUNTER LAUGHED AND SAID:

YOU NEED NOT WORRY ABOUT ME. WE ARE FOREST DWELLERS AND IT IS NATURAL THAT WE TREAD IN THE FOREST.

BUT YOU ARE YOUNG AND APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN BROUGHT UP IN LUXURY. WHY ARE YOU LIVING ALONE IN THE FOREST?

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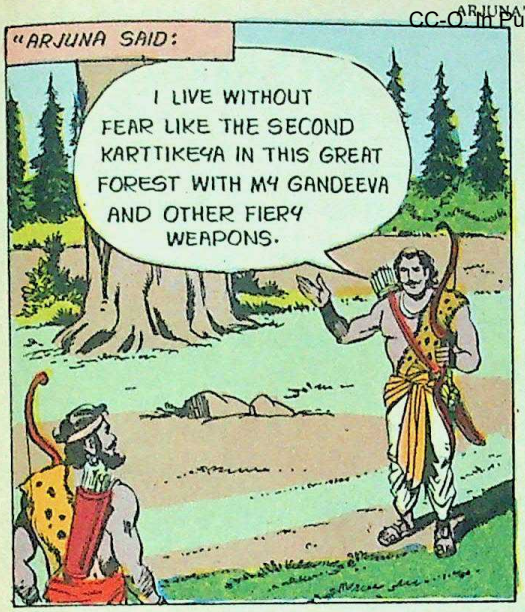

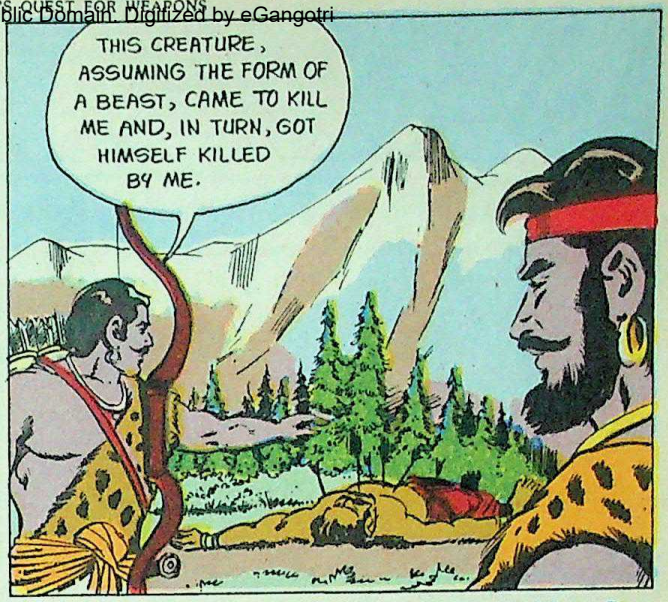

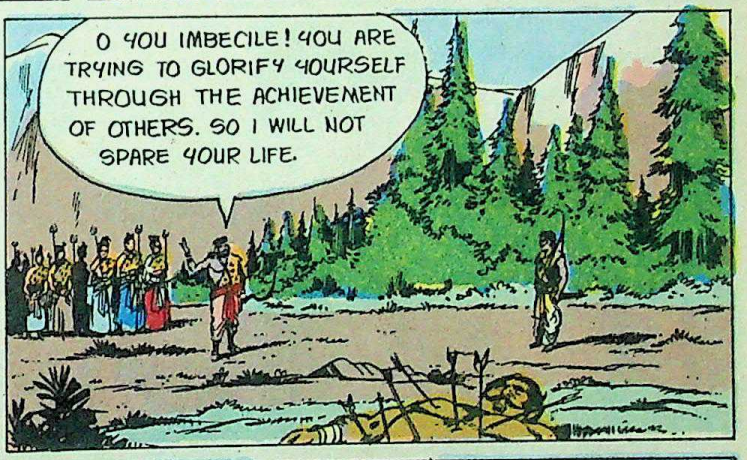

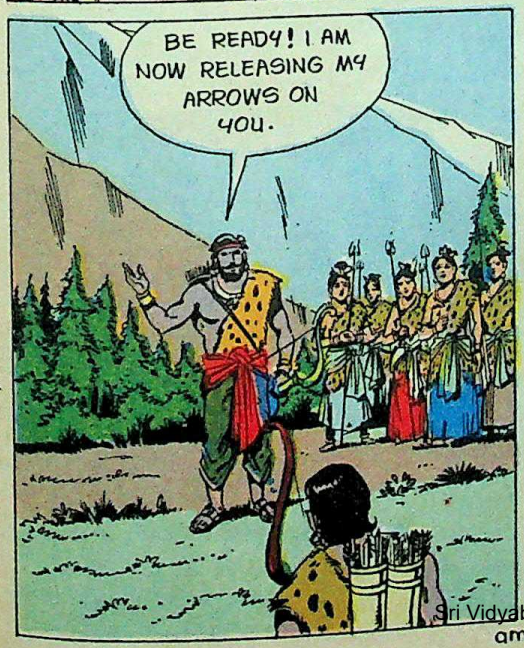

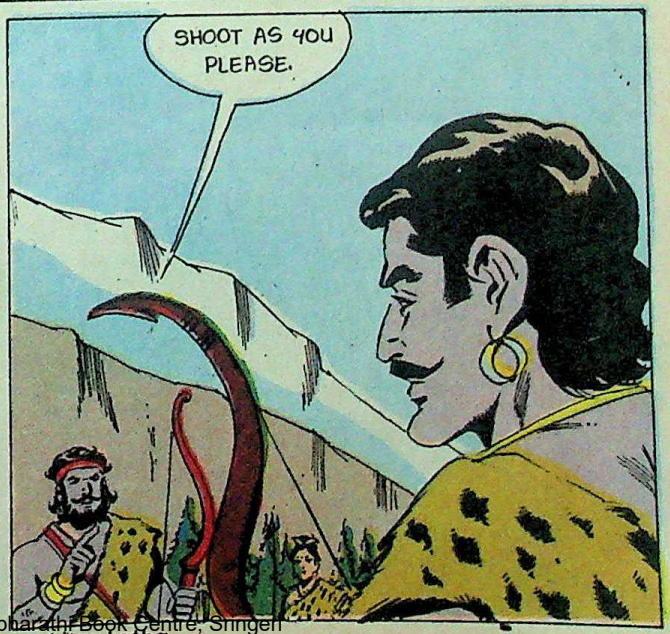

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ANGERED BY THESE WORDS, ARJUNA, STARTED SHOOTING HIS ARROWS. THE HUNTER, PLEASED AT HEART, EASILY CONTAINED THEM.

"AND HE SAID:

TRY AGAIN! TRY AGAIN! THE SHARPEST OF YOUR ARROWS.

"THEN, THE TWO ATTACKED EACH OTHER WITH SNAKE-LIKE ARROWS.

"LORD SHIVA EASILY ABSORBED THE RAIN OF ARROWS RELEASED BY ARJUNA AND REMAINED UNHURT AND UNMOVED LIKE A MOUNTAIN.

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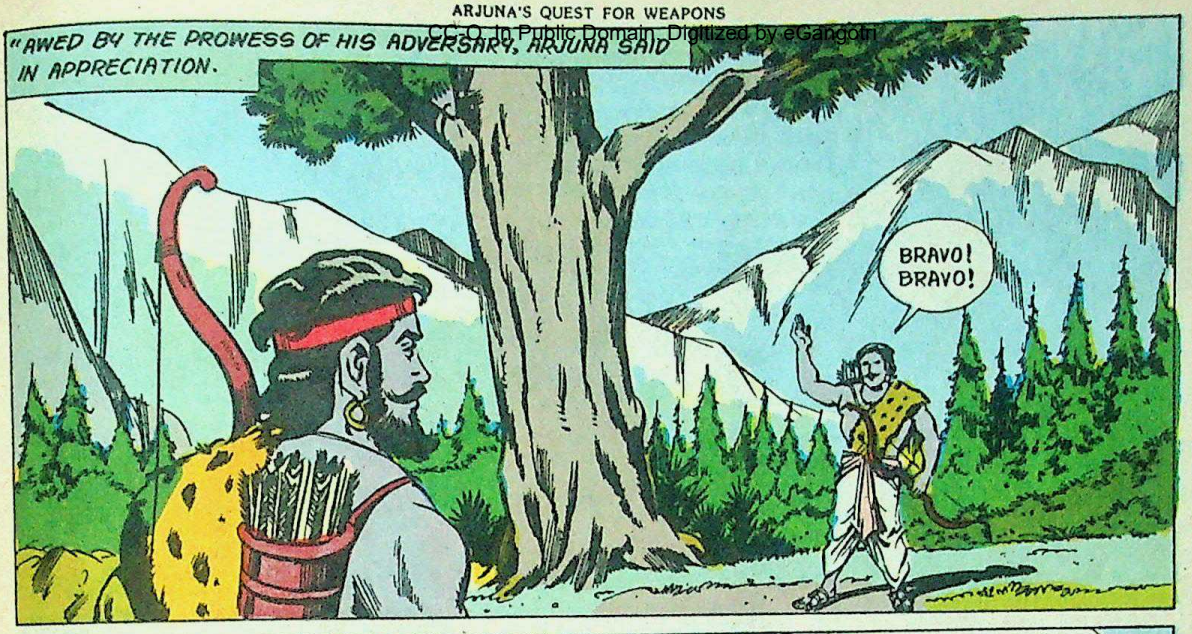

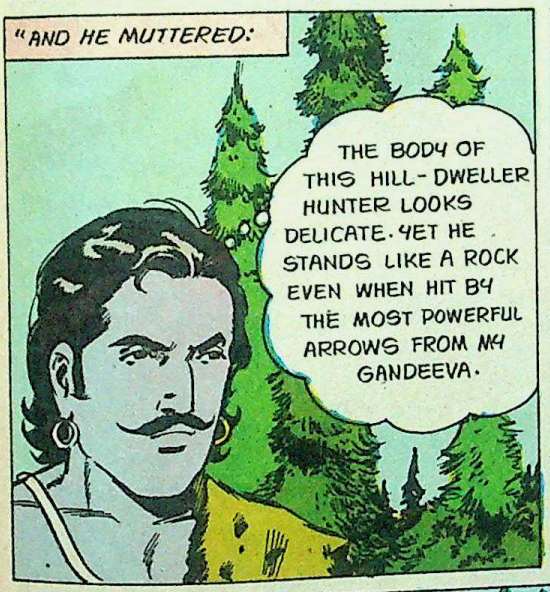

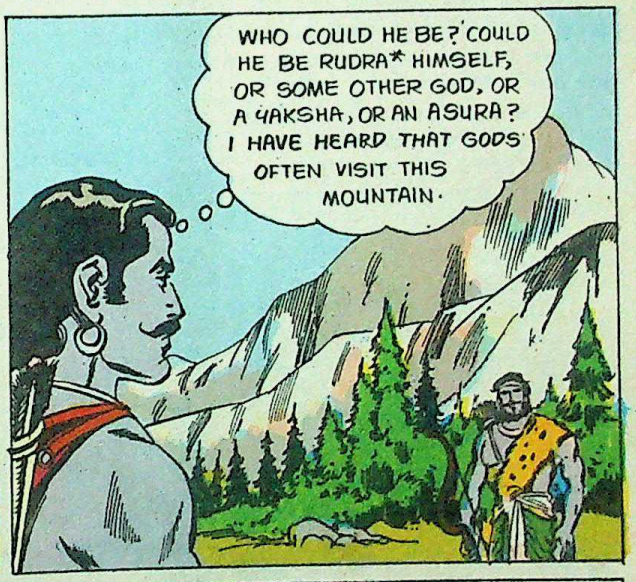

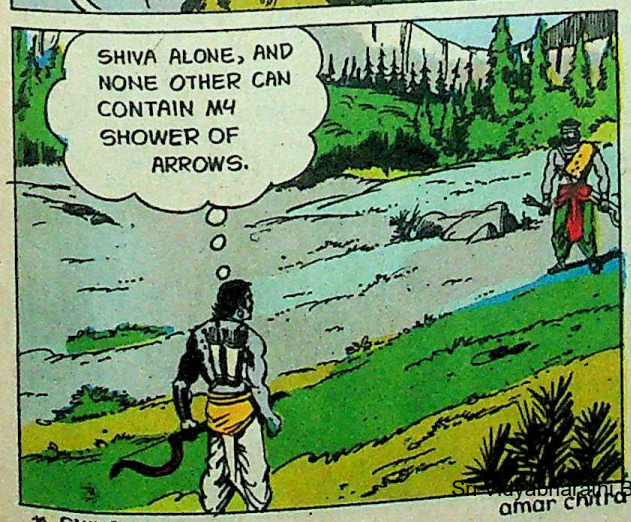

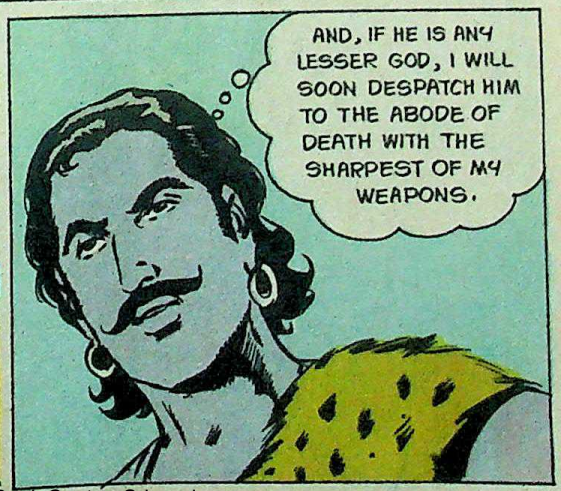

* SHIVA

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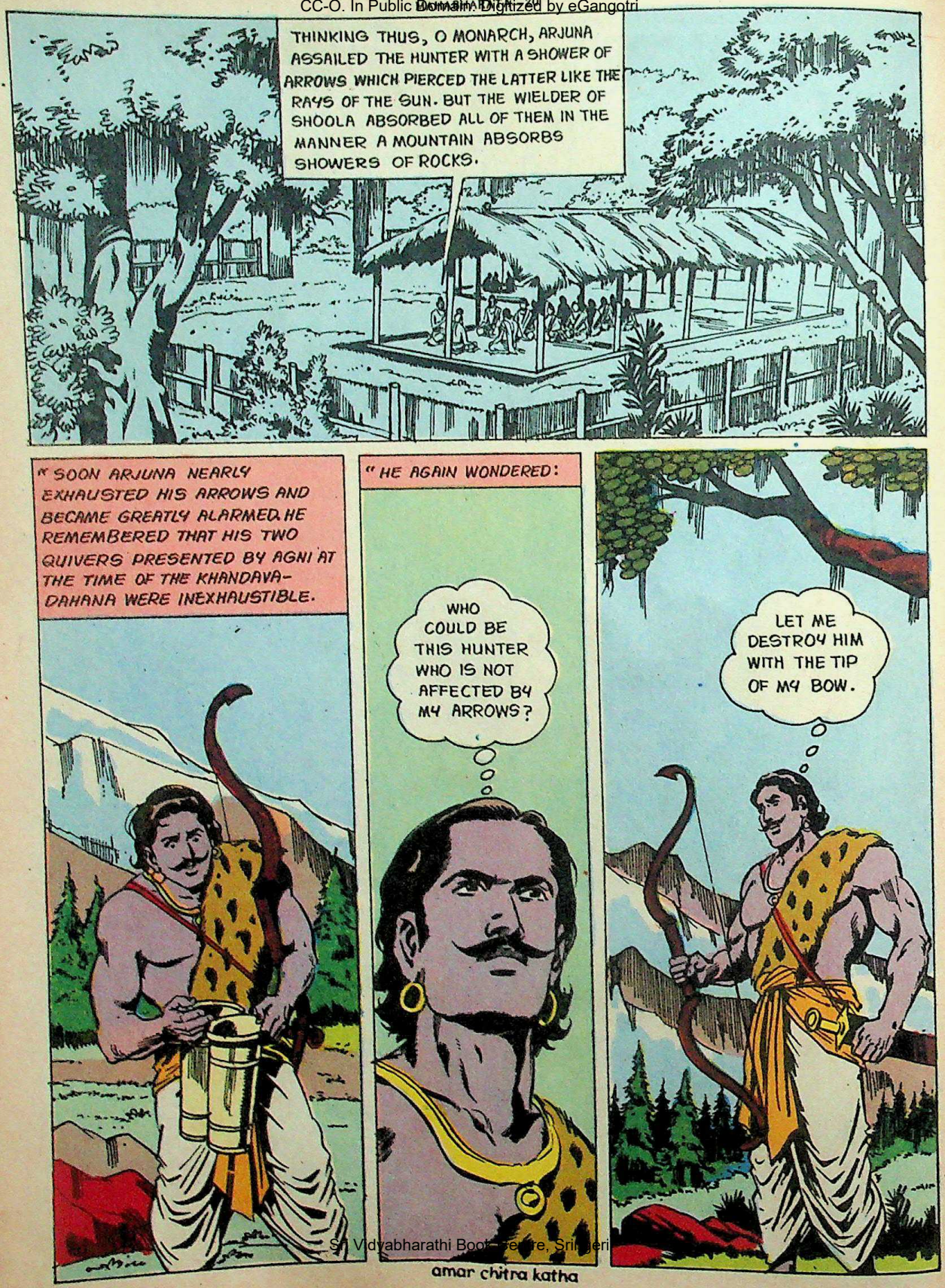

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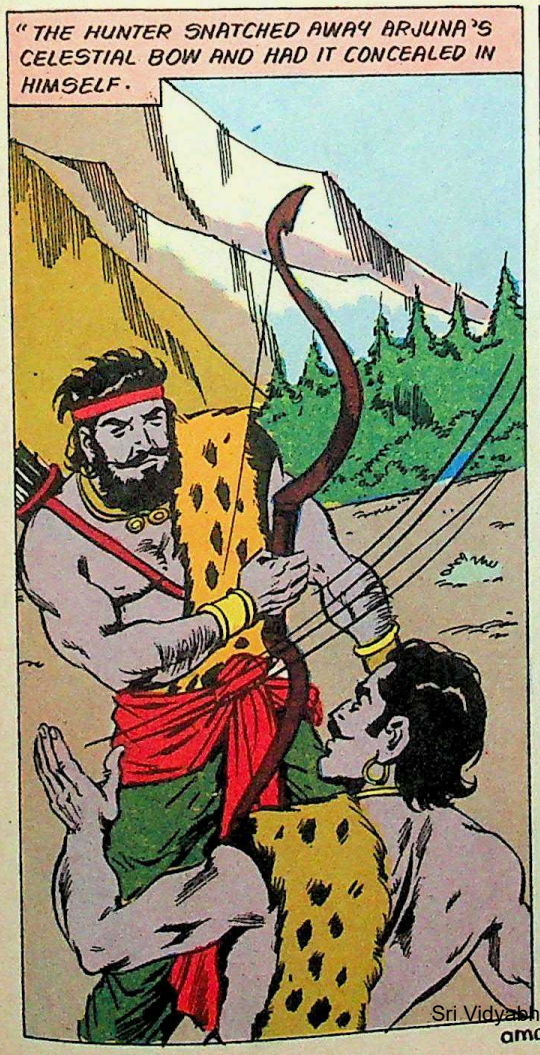

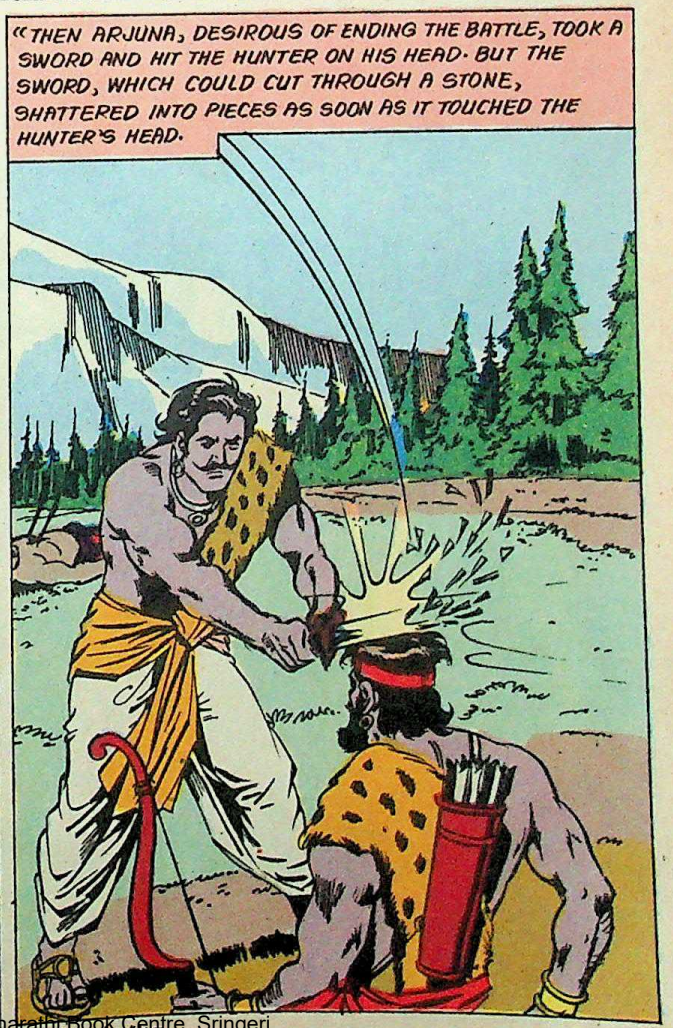

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* SON OF PRITHA (ARJUNA)

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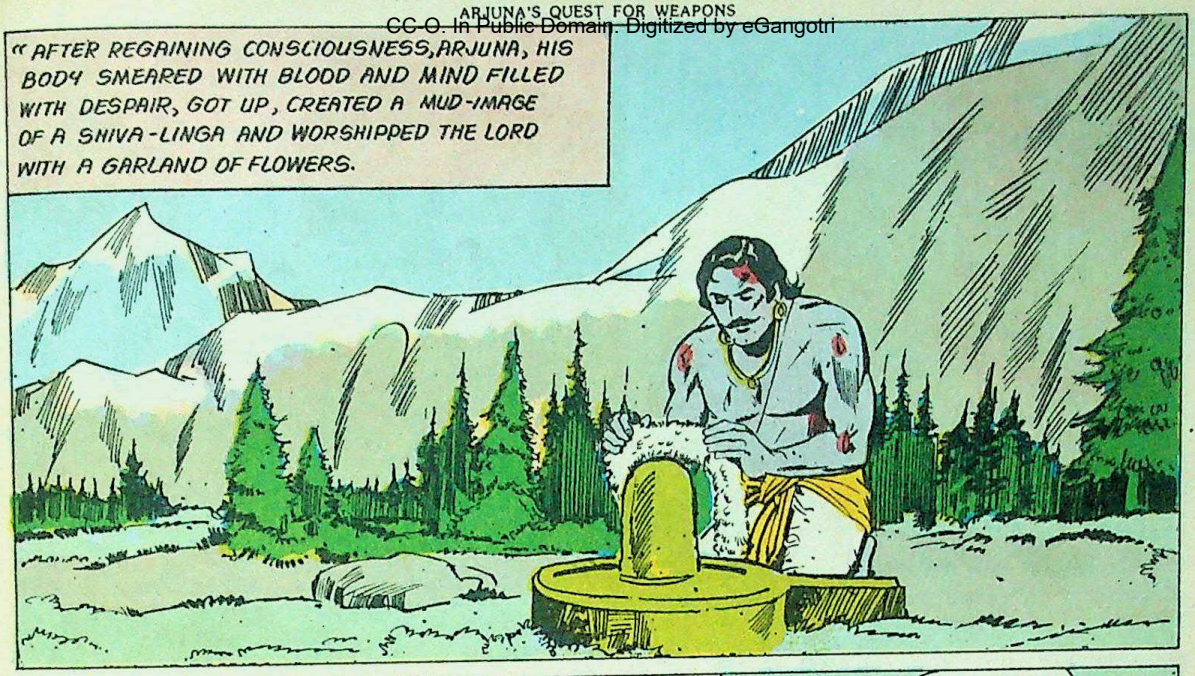

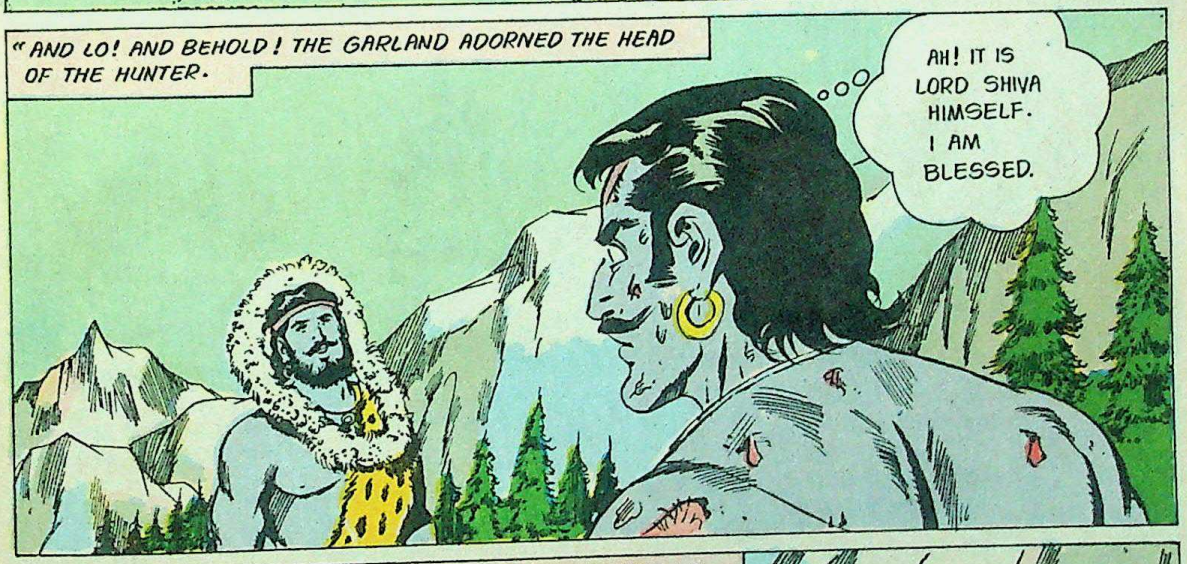

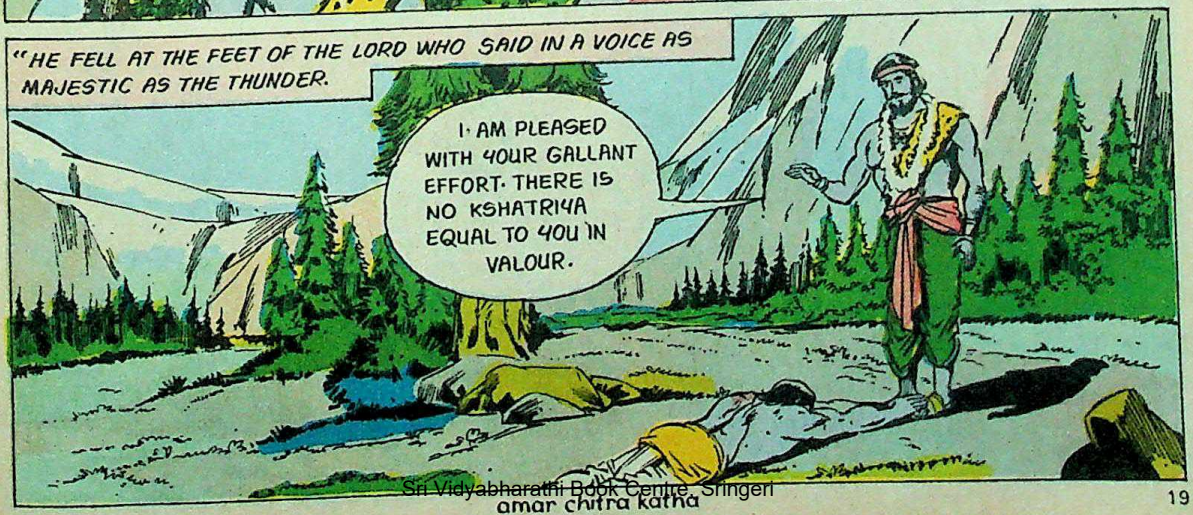

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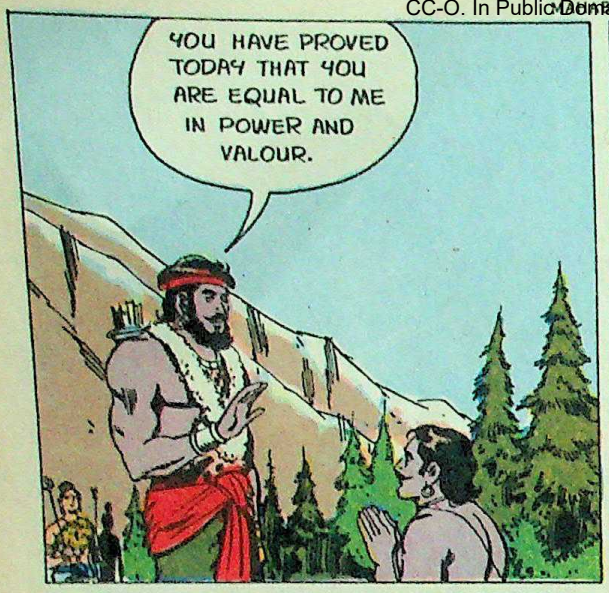

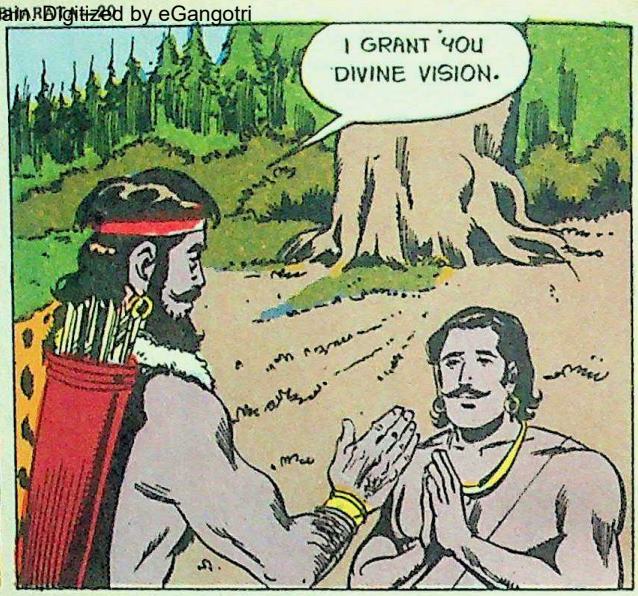

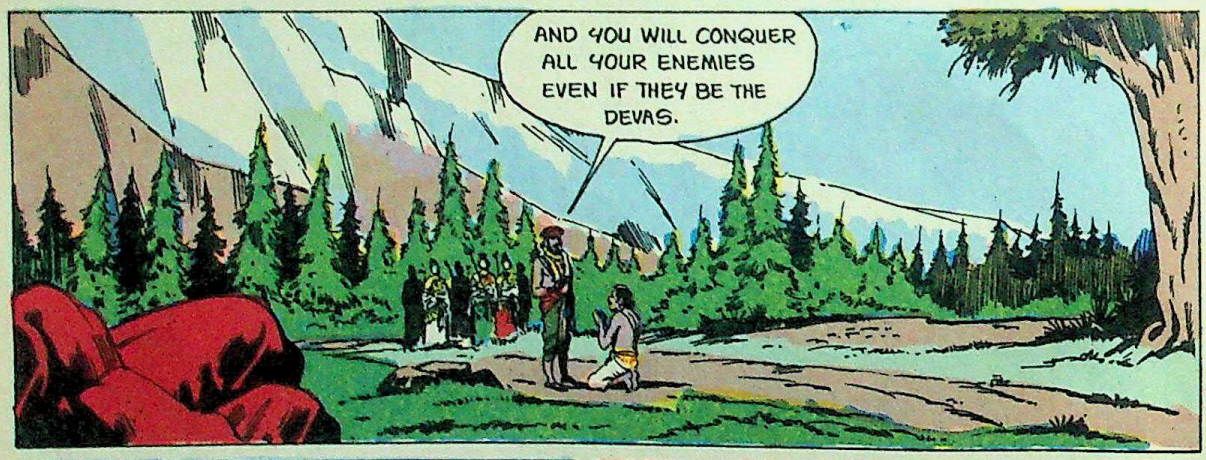

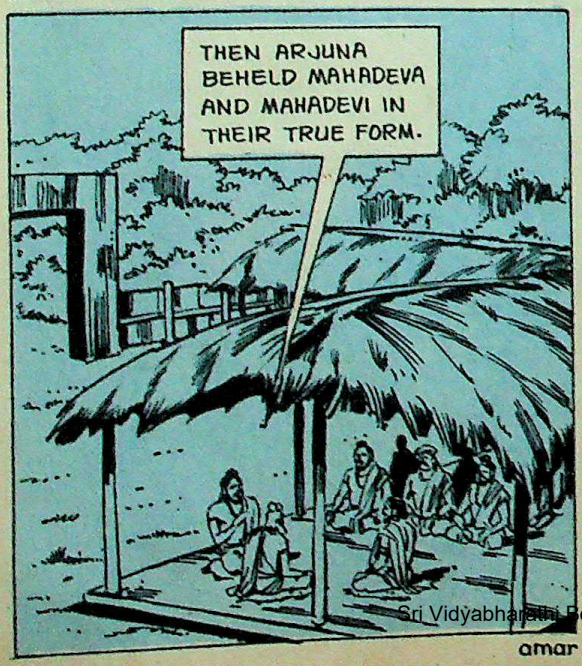

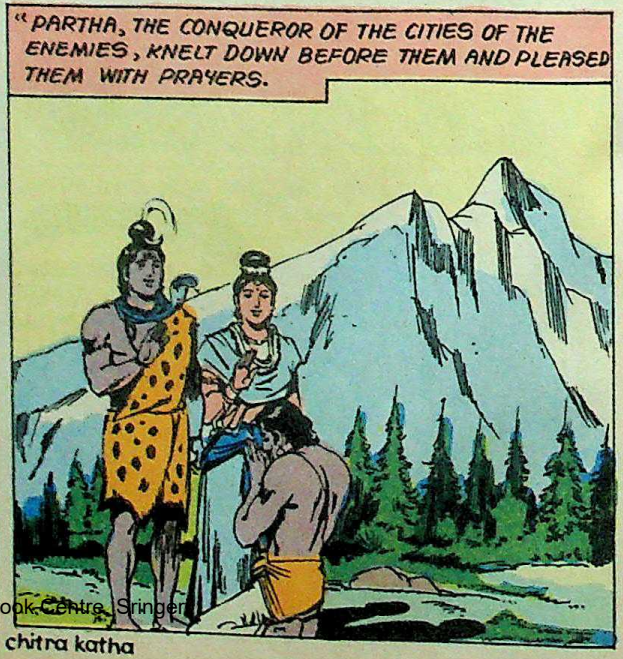

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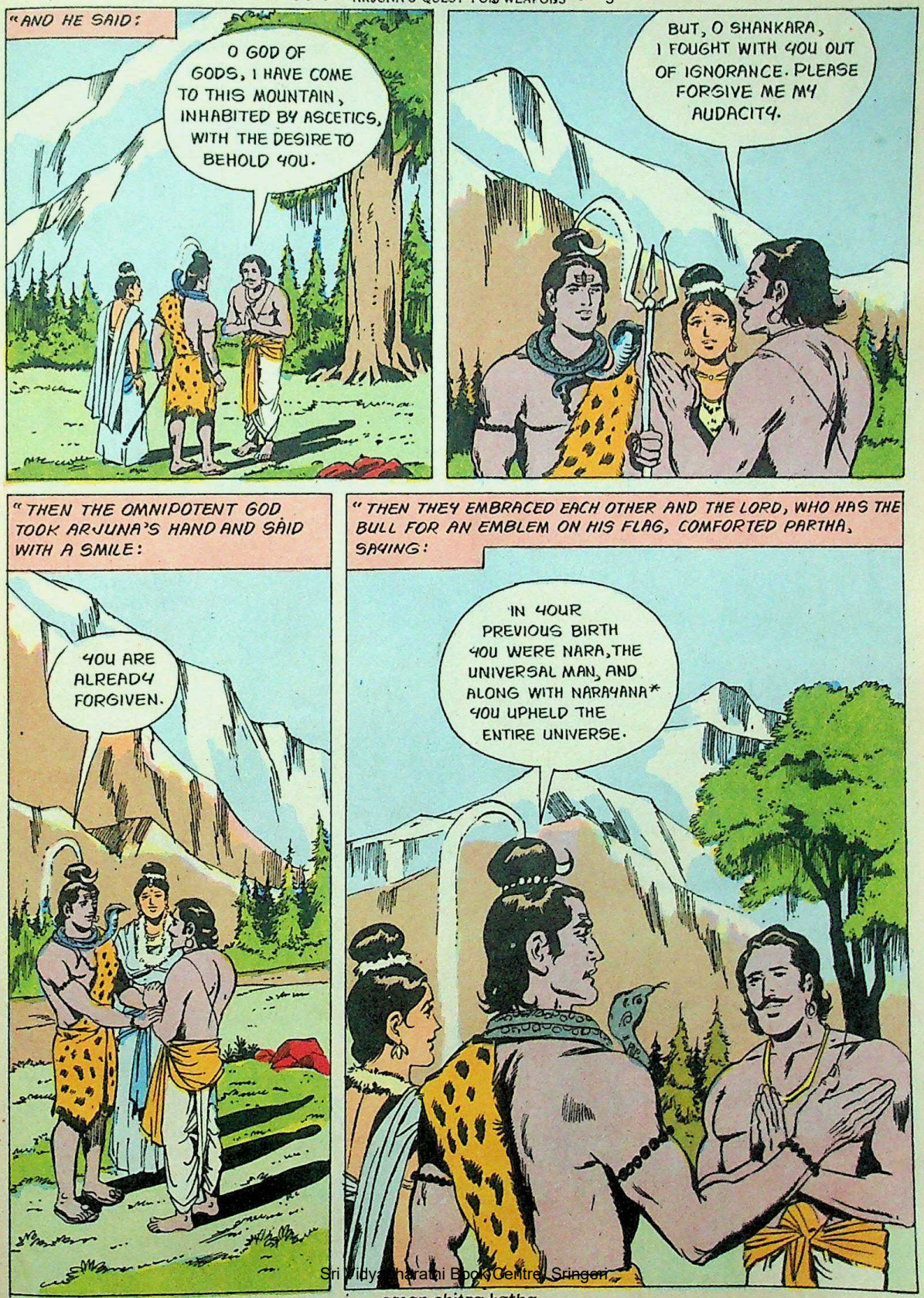

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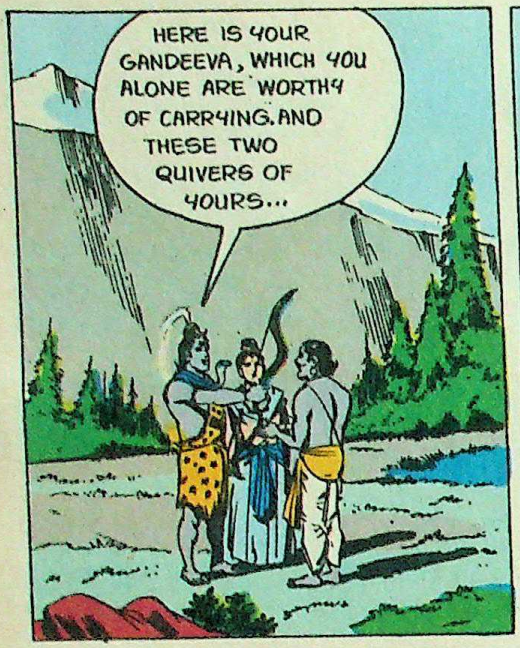

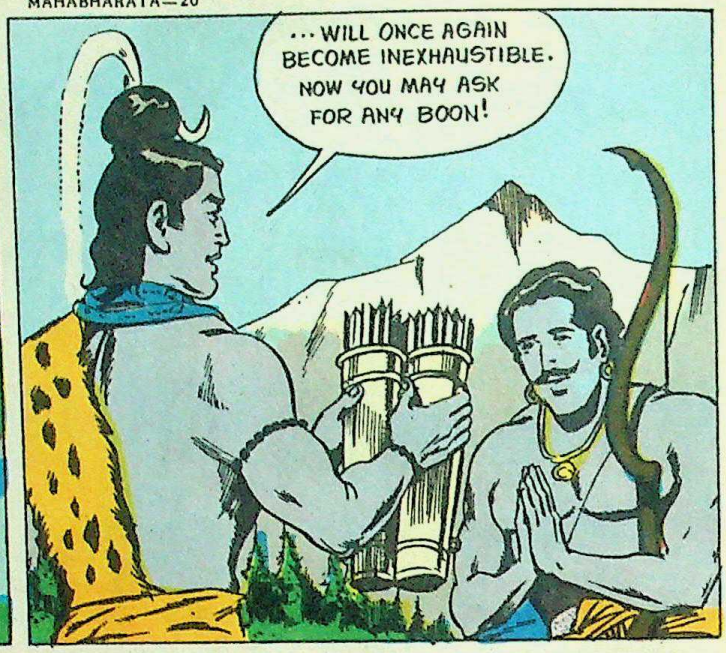

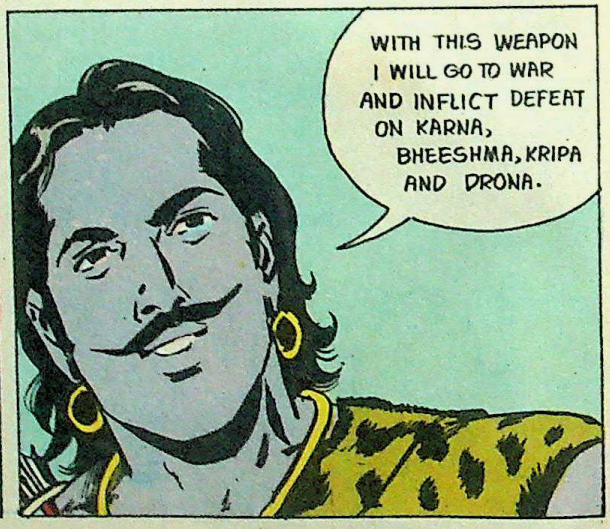

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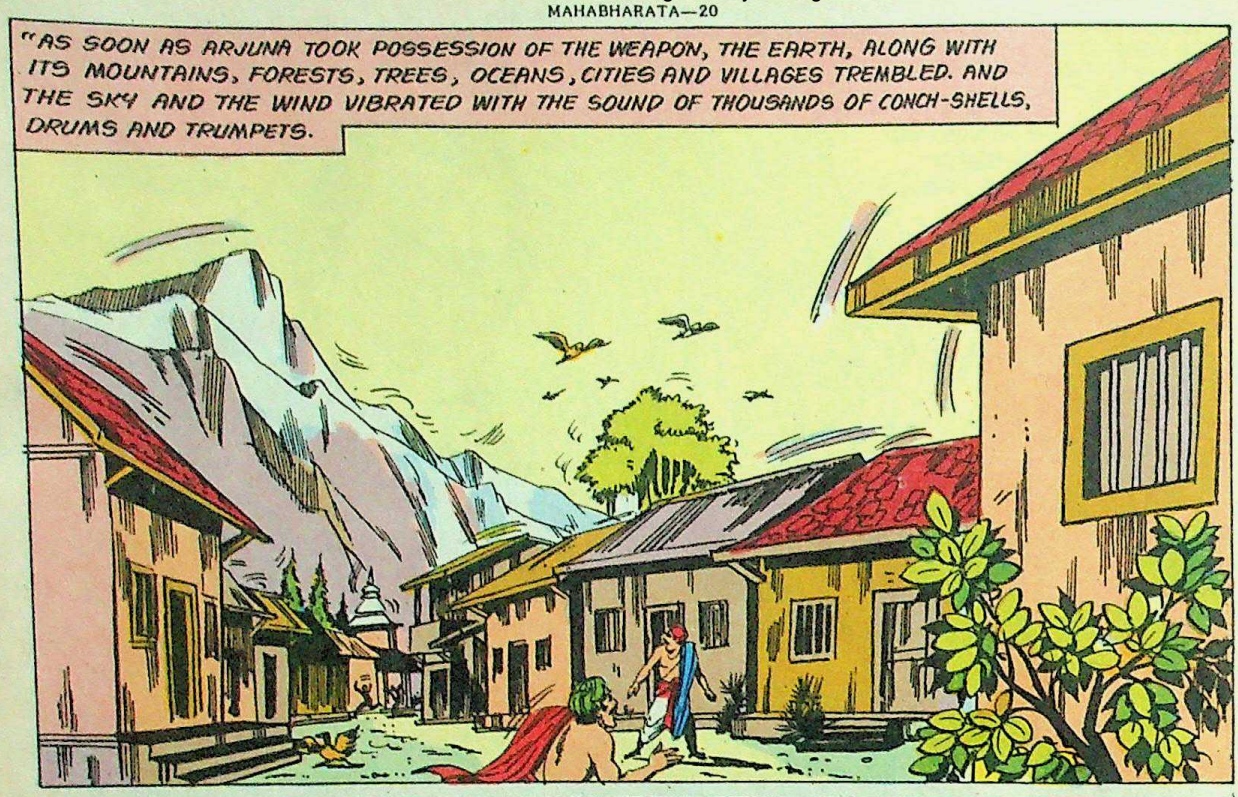

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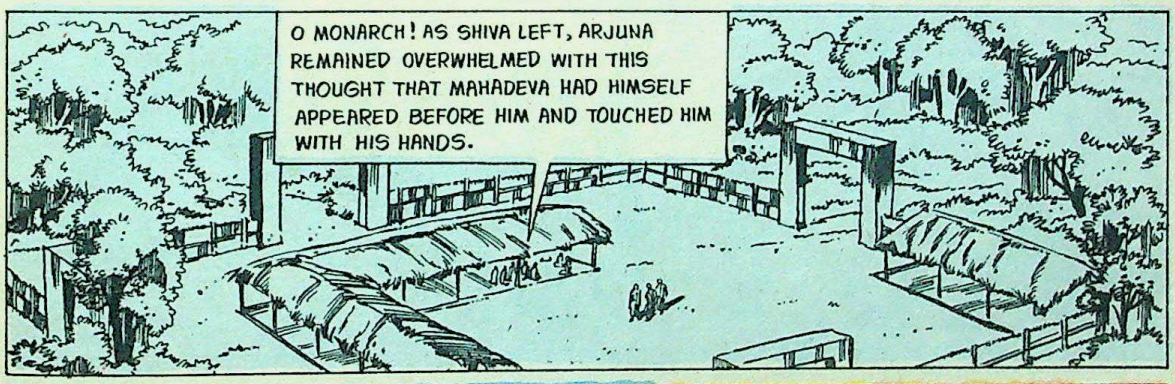

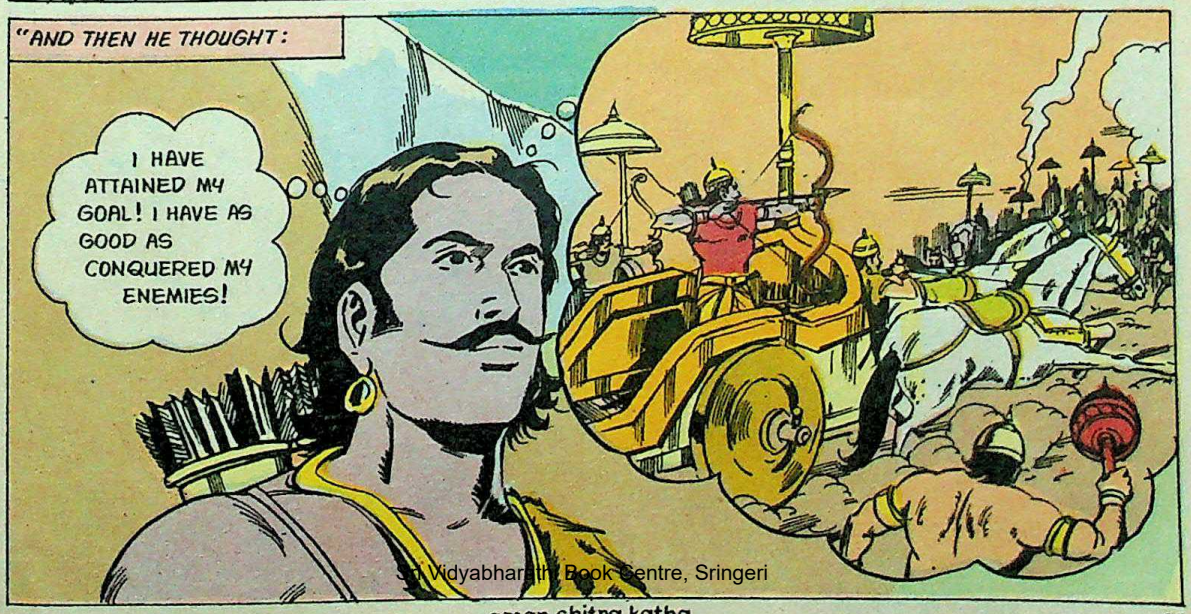

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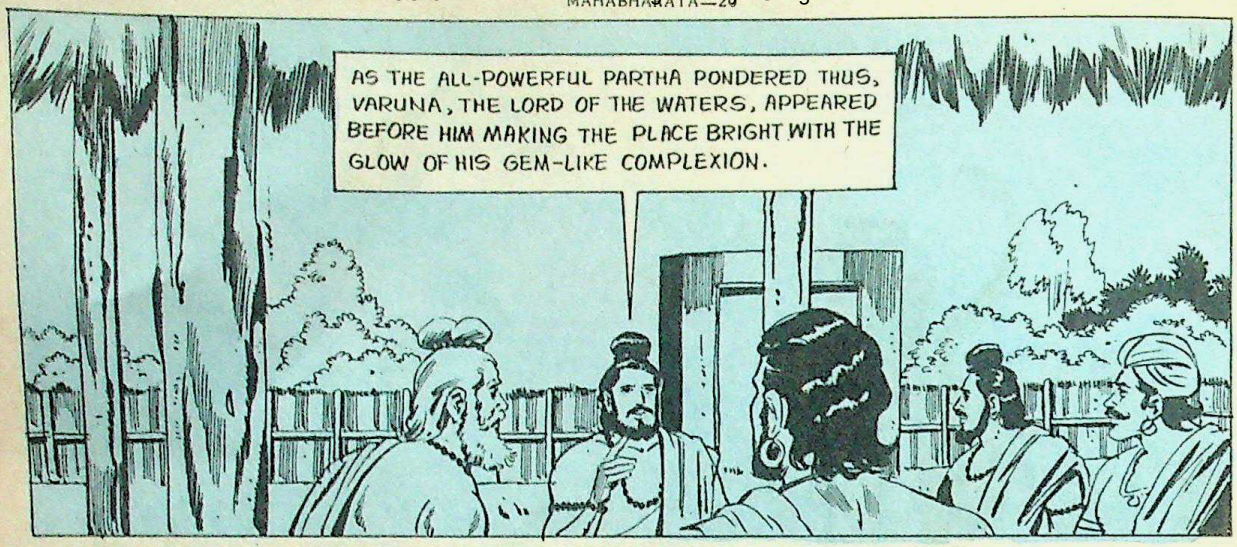

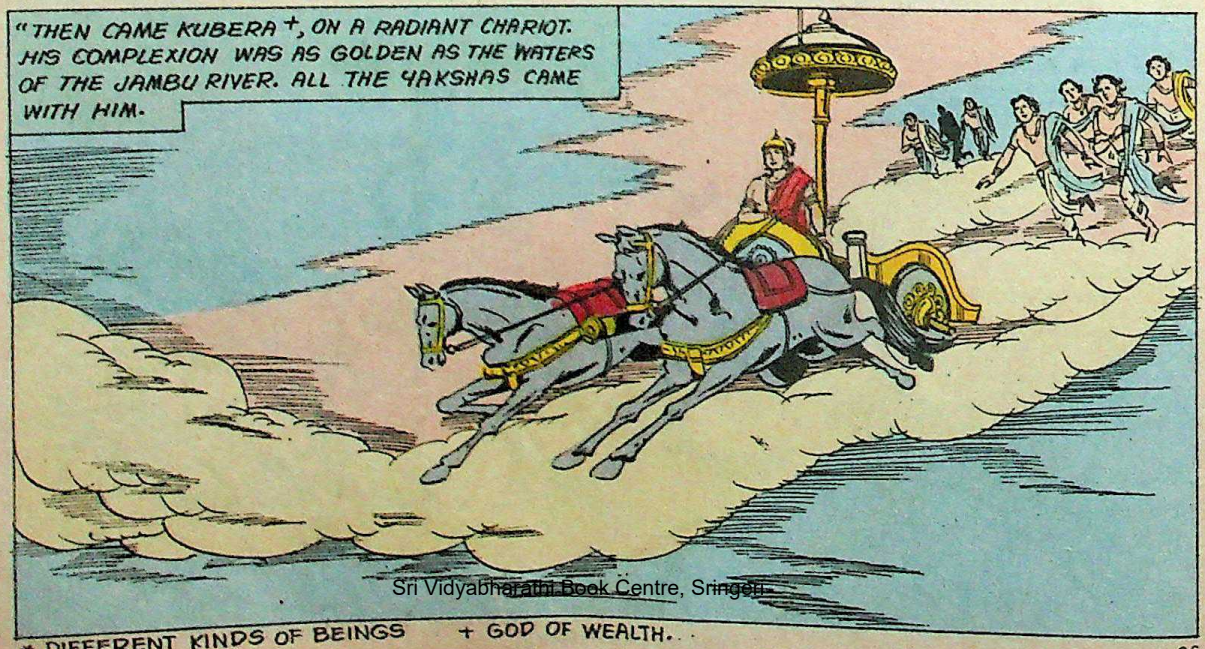

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* DIFFERENT KINDS OF BEINGS + GOD OF WEALTH.

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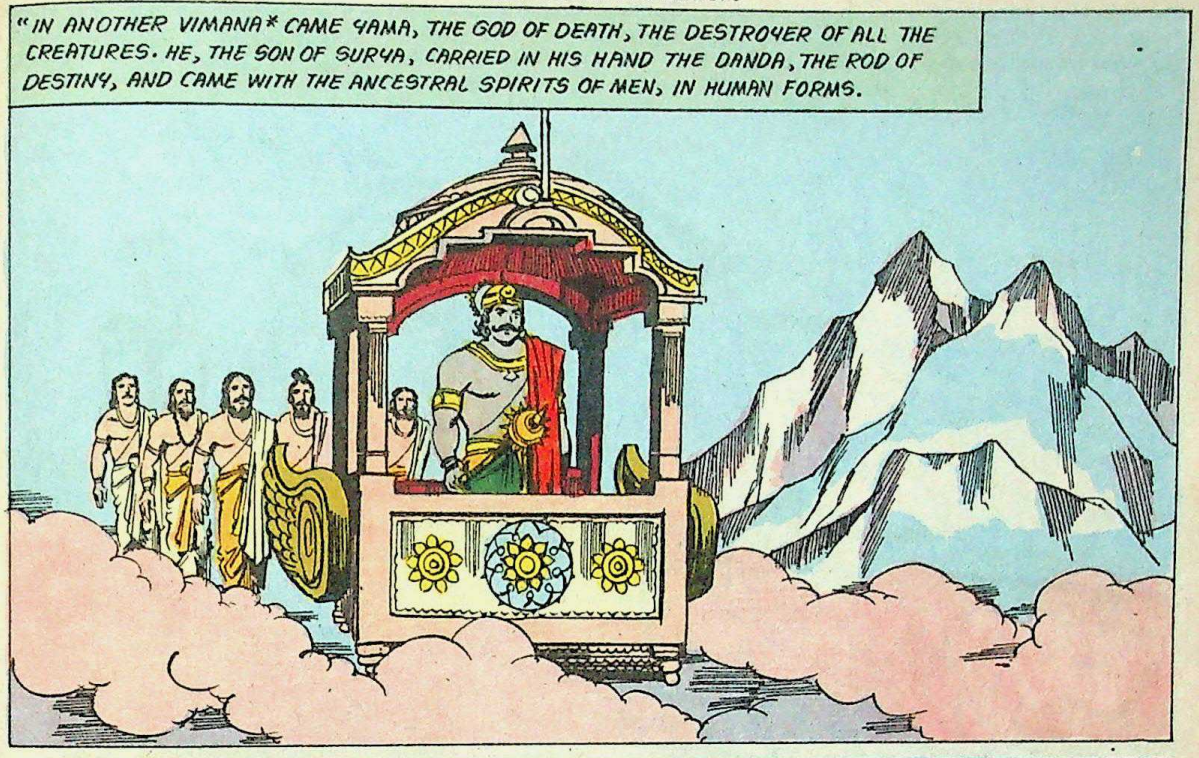

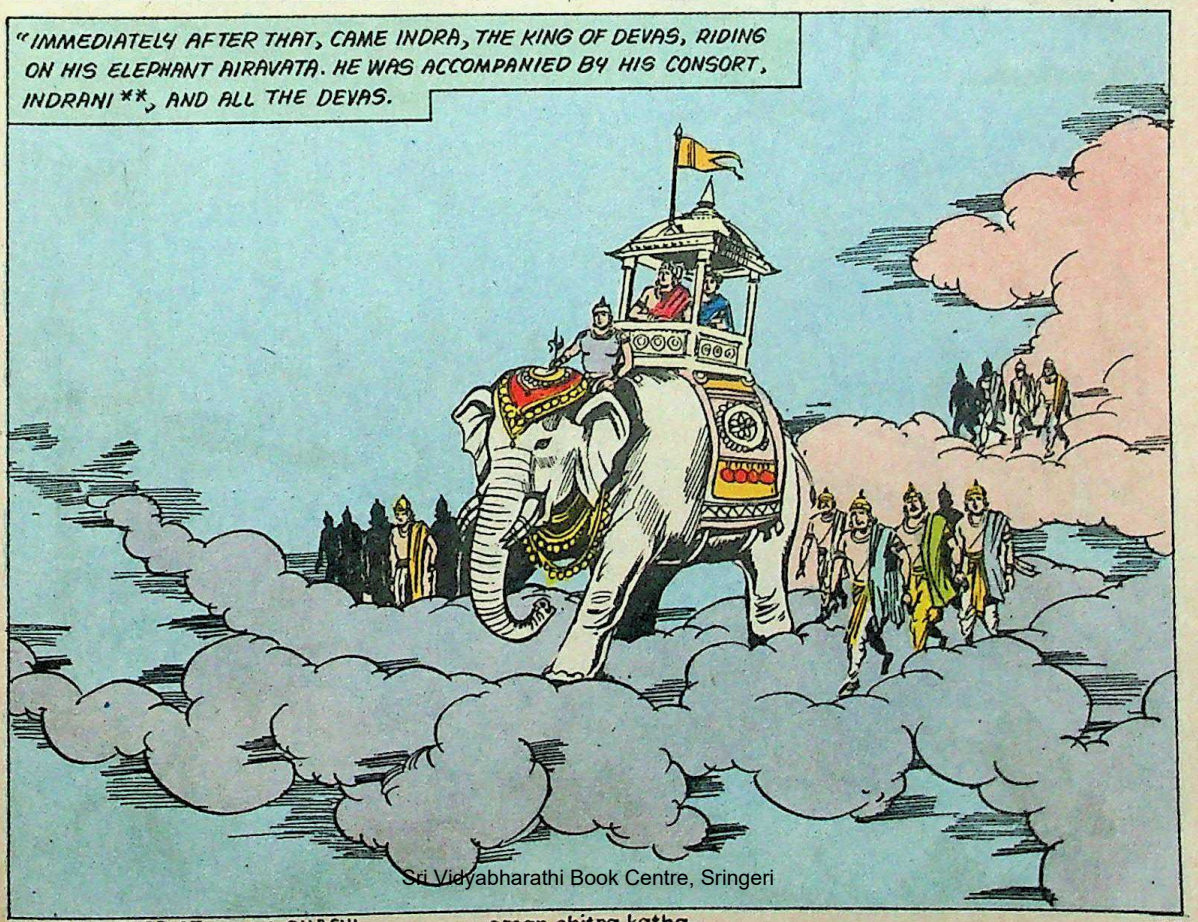

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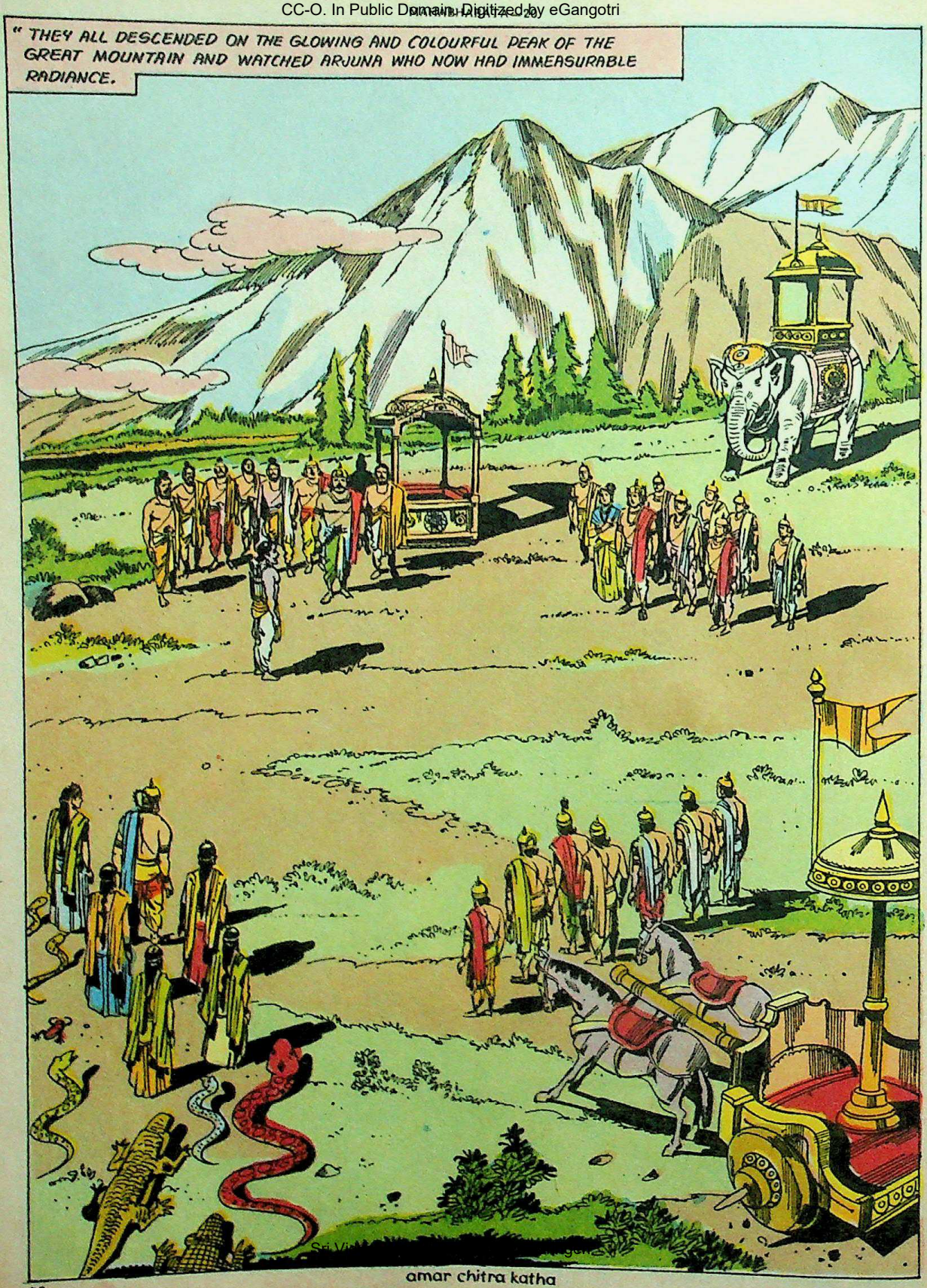

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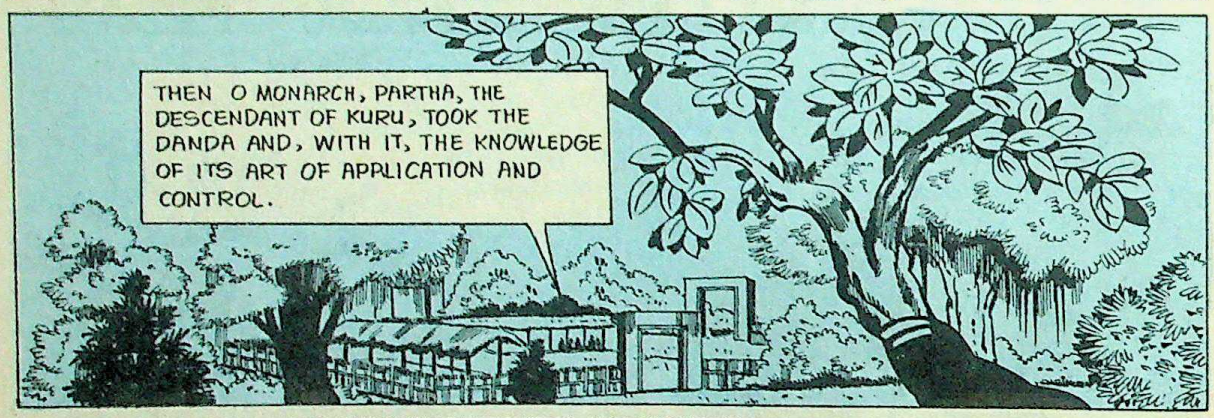

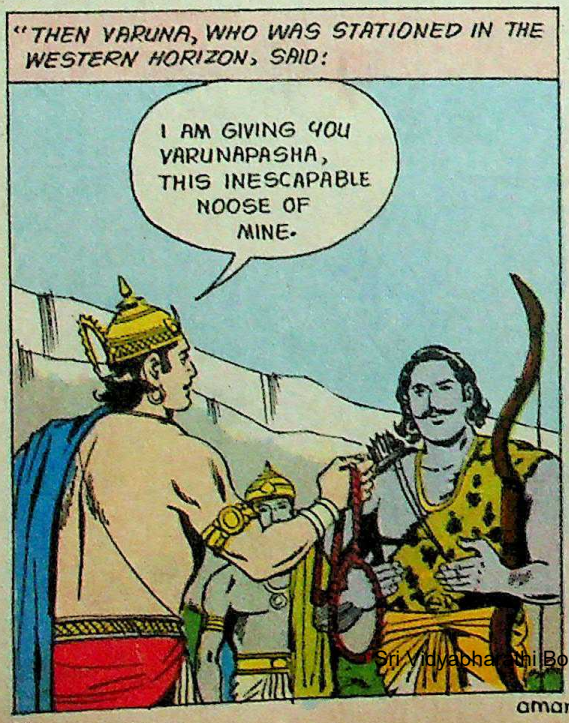

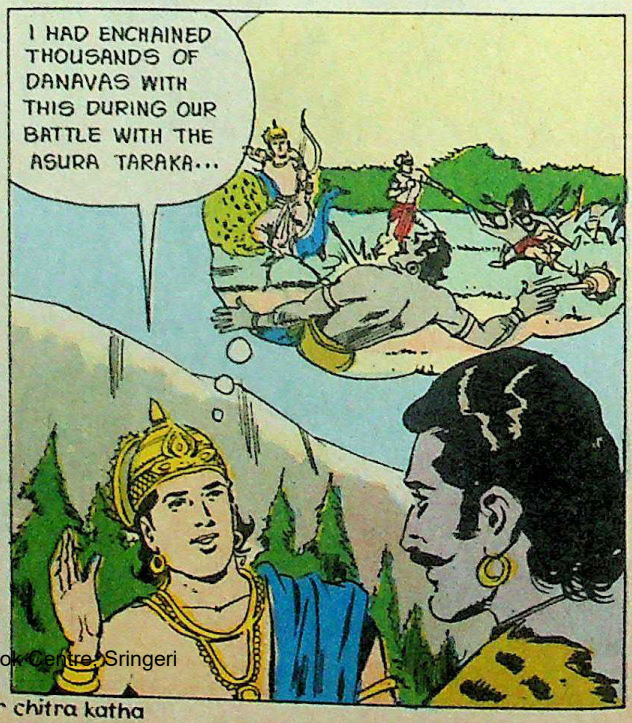

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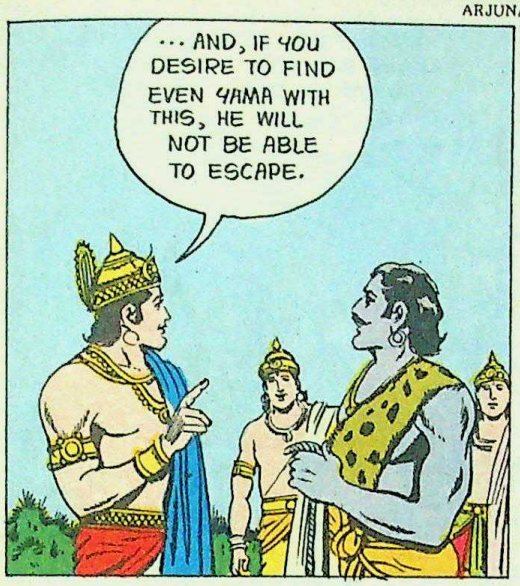

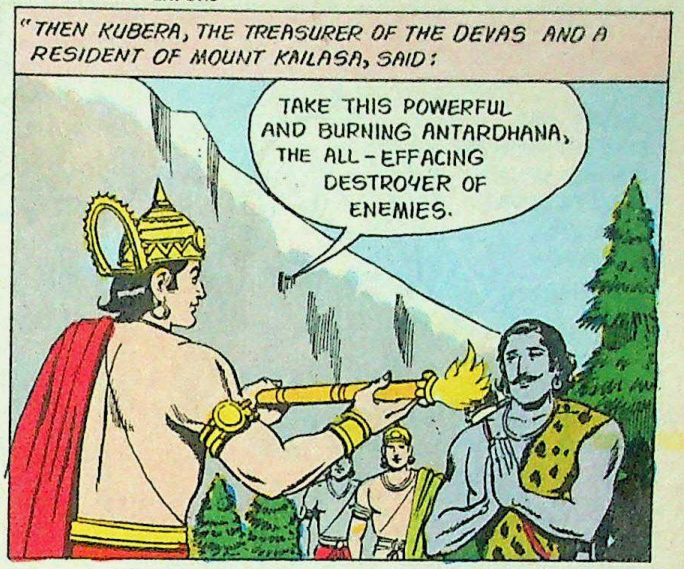

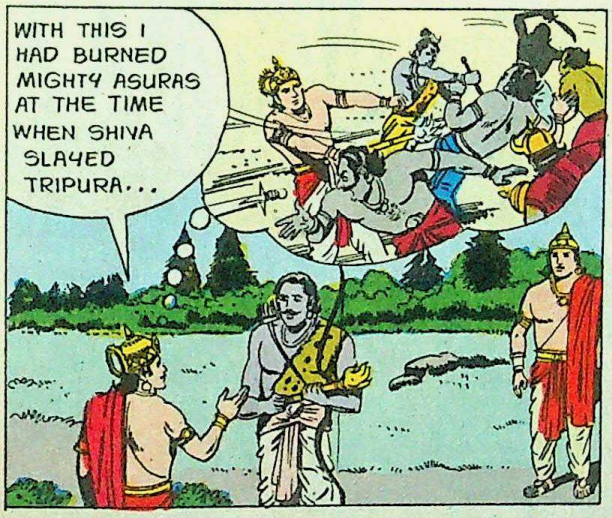

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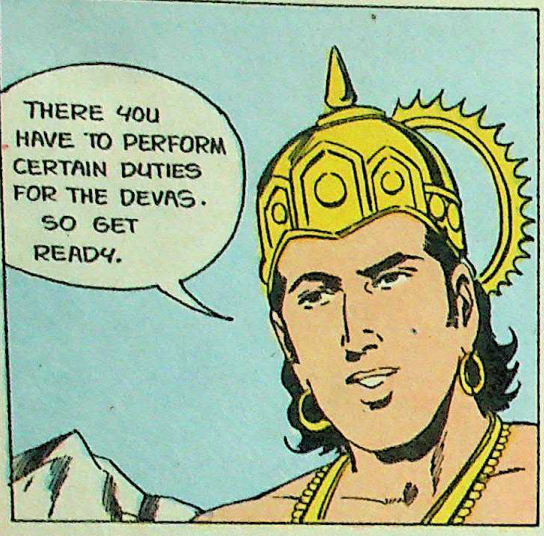

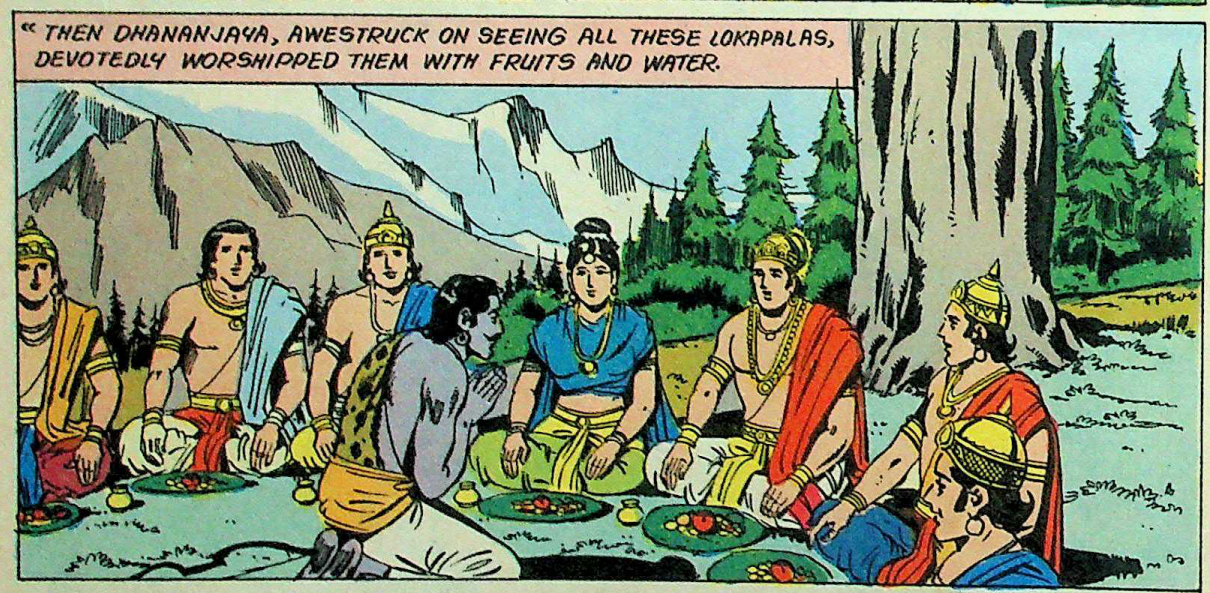

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